

Bridges: A Journal of Student Research

Issue 9

Article 3

2015

From the Editor

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Recommended Citation

Brian, Amanda M. (2015) "From the Editor," *Bridges: A Journal of Student Research*: Vol. 9 : Iss. 9 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.coastal.edu/bridges/vol9/iss9/3>

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FROM THE EDITOR

Bridges: A Student Research Journal continues to showcase undergraduate research produced at Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC. The Editorial Review Board received, once again, a record number of submissions, and it was difficult to narrow down the submission pool to the very best scholarship. Issue 9 (Spring 2015), however, features four outstanding articles based on original research and creative thinking conducted by CCU students under the mentorship of faculty advisers from such diverse disciplines as Accounting, Chemistry, and English. Once again, these faculty advisers proved to be dynamic models for the student authors, encouraging them to stretch farther as researchers and writers.

The students whose work is featured here are exceptional: they investigated compelling research questions, wrote up their findings, underwent a (sometimes lengthy) review process, and addressed intensive editing. We feel privileged to be in a position to be exposed to and evaluate outstanding undergraduate research on our campus. We remain impressed by our students' accomplishments and wish to commend all contributors. Let me introduce the works finally selected for publication in alphabetical order by author's last name.

A team of students, including Daniel M. McDonough, Layla N. Baykal, and Mallory J. Banton, worked under the guidance of faculty member Dr. Rachel A. Hellmann-Whitaker to produce the article "Bacterial Death Results from Mutations Made in Translocation Peptide of Leucyl-tRNA Synthetase." This research has implications in causing the bacterial death of *E. coli*.

Margaret Nichols's "Identity Crafting: Reading the Agency and Art Implicit in Selfies" challenges stereotypes of selfie-dependent young women and narcissistic Millennials. She explores instead the slippery truthfulness of photography to place selfies in the long-standing tradition of self-portraiture.

In "Specters of Nature; or, From Metaphor to Murder: The Nonhuman-animal in Rash's *Serena*," **Pat Siebel** examines animal occurrences in Ron Rash's 2008 novel. The setting of an early-twentieth-century Appalachian timber business provides animal metaphors, which Rash has used unique ways according to the author's analysis.

Austin Willmore reviews the IFRS/US GAAP convergence process in a way that is helpful to both accountants and non-accountants in "The Implication of US GAAP and IFRS Convergence on American Business." He details the importance, while acknowledging the difficulties, of American business embracing global standards.

After a combined eleven years of editorial service to *Bridges* between us, Scott Pleasant and I have completed our last issue. We relished working with driven students and dedicated faculty, and we commend and support student-focused research opportunities across campus. We are fortunate to work for a university that has embraced experiential learning that has student-led and student-focused research as a strong component. It is with great pleasure that we announce *Bridges'* new editor and managing editor: Dr. Keaghan Turner (kturner@coastal.edu), assistant professor of English, and Dr. Clayton Whitesides (cwhitesid@coastal.edu), assistant professor of Politics and Geography, respectively. They will continue the tradition of excellence and innovation with *Bridges*.

—*Amanda M. Brian, Ph.D., Editor 2012-2015*

FACULTY ADVISERS

We would like to acknowledge each of the faculty advisers who worked with the student authors on their articles both before they were submitted for publication in Bridges and during the publication process. These faculty advisers, whose photographs and biographies follow the articles, dedicated time and energy far above their regular teaching responsibilities to guide their mentees in original research and writing. In many cases these articles were originally written as the student's senior project, capstone paper, or honors thesis. Working with advisees on such endeavors is not required for professors. They do this work for select students whose work rises above the normal expectations for undergraduate work. They also model faculty-student collaboration for our learning community. Without the work of the faculty advisers who direct the student toward success, Bridges could not exist.

We want to offer our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following advisers who worked on articles for Issue 9:

Adviser and Department	Student Author and Title
Sheila Mitchell, Accounting	Austin Willmore, "The Implication of US GAAP and IFRS Convergence on American Business"
Christian Smith, English	Margaret Nichols, "Identity Crafting: Reading the Agency and Art Implicit in Selfies"
Daniel Cross Turner, English	Pat Siebel, "Specters of Nature; or, From Metaphor to Murder: The Nonhuman-animal in Rash's Serena"
Rachel Whitaker, Chemistry	Daniel McDonough, "Bacterial Death Results from Mutations Made in Translocation Peptide of Leucyl-tRNA Synthetase"

OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would also like to acknowledge the following people who have supported Bridges and should be recognized for their ongoing efforts to foster undergraduate research and scholarship at Coastal Carolina University. Without their continued commitment to this journal and their belief in the importance of promoting undergraduate publications, producing Bridges each year would literally be impossible. Our deep gratitude is given to:

- J. Ralph Byington, Provost and Senior Vice President
- Robert Young, Director of Undergraduate Research
- Michael Ruse, Director of the Honors Program

We have wonderful website and administrative support as well, which is a testimony to the broader community support Bridges receives. Special recognition goes to:

- Debbie Hamm, Program Assistant of the Honors Program

We received additional help at critical moments from certain dedicated Board members. Appreciation for additional service goes to:

- Paul Peterson, Politics and Geography
- Michael Ruse, Honors Program

In addition, we would also like to acknowledge the work of our faculty reviewers. These faculty members agree to read and comment on articles that have been submitted for consideration. The faculty reviewers serve as subject matter experts who comment on the value of the articles and offer suggestions for improvement before the article is published. In order to be published, an article must first be nominated by a faculty adviser and then reviewed positively by the entire Bridges Editorial Review Board. At that point, the article is sent to a faculty reviewer. Only when an article has received a positive review from the objective outsider can it be slated for publication.

It is essential for Bridges to have this kind of outside review process because almost all scholarly work proceeds in this manner. Our student authors are experiencing this important process for the first time. Without the unpaid work of these readers, this outside review process could not take place. We wish to thank the following faculty members for serving as reviewers this year.

- Ronald Green, Philosophy & Religious Studies
- Steven Hamelman, English
- Daniel Hasty, English
- Elizabeth Howie, Visual Arts
- Karen Maguire, Accounting
- Tripthi Pillai, English
- Christian Smith, English
- Yoav Wachsman, Finance & Economics
- Daniel Williams, Biology

The Editorial Review Board is composed of Coastal Carolina University faculty members who are dedicated to strengthening our broadly defined research community. Their guidance of Bridges is invaluable.

- Sarah Banks, Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies

- Paul Clark, Marketing and Resort Tourism
- Howard Coleman, Educational Leadership
- Steve Earnest, Theatre
- Monica Fine, Marketing and Resort Tourism
- Susan Flynn, Special Education
- Melanie James, Accounting, Finance, and Economics
- Linda Martin, English
- Kevin McWilliams, Chemistry/Physics
- Paul Peterson, Politics and Geography
- Michael Ruse, Honors Program
- Keaghan Turner, English
- Philip Whalen, History
- Robert Young, Undergraduate Research