

## A Note from the Editor

If we looked for an experience that unites elementary-aged children across the United States, moaned complaints about math homework would not be the worst place to start. Good news: the inaugural speakers for the Spring 2021 session of Purdue Honors College Visiting Scholars Series are on a mission to challenge preconceived notions about the inherent dullness of math. Dr. Elham Kazemi and Dr. Hala Ghouseini have found that the best math class is one that incorporates young students' curiosity and joy into the curriculum to encourage their active exploration. Students are not the only ones who learn in this model; teachers can also use feedback and observations to increase the effectiveness of their pedagogy.

Dr. Elham Kazemi is the Geda and Phil Condit Professor in Mathematics Education at the University of Washington. She is interested in building classrooms that are both joyful and educational, with an emphasis on students' individuality. Learning should never be synonymous with boredom, as play is a critical component of generating a life-long interest in mathematics. She also works to introduce social justice principles into educational environments with a distinct focus on serving students from racially and culturally diverse backgrounds.

Dr. Hala Ghouseini is the John Grover Harvey Professor in Math Education at the University of Wisconsin- Madison. Beyond her most recent work with Dr. Kazemi, Dr. Ghouseini is known for her research into the concept of "rehearsal," in which educators simulate lessons from the student perspective. She has spearheaded the development of pedagogies that encourage instructor reflection and extra-classroom practice, while creating specific activities to aid teachers who are new to the collective education process.

The season for educational growth never passes, but this spring completes a year when evolution is needed most. Online learning environments have been isolating, stressful, and sometimes ineffective. There are fears that student achievement will not recover, especially in schools which struggle to retain their community under the best of circumstances. Change is due—indeed, it is overdue. Educators must be armed with the best physical, financial, and pedagogical tools possible if the pandemic's effects are to be countered, beginning with the work of veteran researchers like Dr. Kazemi and Dr. Ghouseini.

## About the Editor

Jannine Huby is an undergraduate student at Purdue University, where she is dual majoring in Political Science and Global Studies with a minor in Professional Writing. She is an active member of Purdue's Honors College and a representative for the College of Liberal Arts on the Honors Leadership Council (HLC). Around campus, Jannine can also be seen performing her duties as a Resident Assistant and as a member of Student English Association (SEA).