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Good-bye Letter From the Editors

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Rebecca Fenselau

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SYNAPSE

THE
INTERCOLLEGIATE SCIENCE MAGAZINE

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Chief Layout Editor

Genevieve Kirk (OC '22)

I was hired to *The Synapse* board as Chief Layout Editor in the dreaded Spring semester of 2020 while studying abroad in Florence, Italy. In the days before Zoom, I met Tori and Becca over Skype. With windows thrown open and the resident street violinist playing on the cobblestones below, we discussed my future with the magazine. Little did sophomore Genevieve know, she would be sent home early from her program and enter into *The Synapse* board entirely online and without meeting anyone in person. I suppose nothing would have prepared me better for the ways in which we have had to work these past two years. So, while I can say I regret having to cancel my spring break plans to travel Europe with a friend, I will never regret my time with *The*

Synapse magazine and my contributions as an artist, designer, manager, friend and trainer to our amazing rising board members who will continue to take the magazine to better and brighter in-person places.

Good-bye Letter From the Editors ●●●



Editor-in-Chief

Rebecca Fenselau (OC '22)

It has been such an honor to serve as The Synpase's Editor-in-Chief (ENC) for the past three years. The Synpase is a quite unique magazine; we are a completely student-run group geared towards making scientific topics accessible to everyone, with the help of gorgeous, unique art pieces created for each article. I am incredibly grateful for the contributions of so many of my peers — students who were passionate enough to write about their interests, share their art pieces, and donate their time to do remarkably high-level editing and layouts. I am constantly inspired by the skill and knowledge of our contributors, whose interests and knowledge vary far beyond what I myself know. As ENC, I spend a lot of time editing the magazine and articles — but the process is primarily one of learning. This magazine has taught me about countless issues, but one of the central motifs is translation. The Synpase has provided a rare opportunity for students to get published, while pushing them to effectively translate complex scientific topics into educational, digestible, and plain language articles. The magazine is particularly unique in that there is an added layer of translation of science through art. The act of translating science is becoming increasingly more important, highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change — global crises that threaten everyone, but disproportionately affect those who have been historically excluded from scientific fields. I truly hope that The Synpase can be one small avenue of education for the general public and students, as well as help train some of the future innovators, artists, and scientists that will be tackling and communicating important issues.

I am so proud of the progress and changes the magazine has made during my time at Oberlin College. In 2018, Steven Mentzer, Yue Yu, and Tori Fisher redesigned the entire magazine to give it its current organized, modern, professional, and aesthetic style. In 2020, the magazine was not only able to survive the global pandemic by successfully transitioning to be fully online, but actually thrived. The number of contributors skyrocketed, and we finally were able to expand the magazine to not one, but two schools (CWRU and the CoW), due to the remarkable hustle and creativity of Evelyn Morrison, Yanni Sarrimanolis, Barlow Wagner, and our student liaisons. I will forever be thankful for the mentorship and friendship I received from Tori Fisher, who taught me so much about how to manage a board, communicate effectively, and let go of the constant urge to appear “agreeable” at the expense of direct communication.

I am confident that The Synpase's new ENCs, Emma Rekate and Susan Robinson-Cloete, will pick up the magazine where Nicole Franowicz, my co-ENC, and I leave it. I know they will continue to create new initiatives to expand and enhance The Synpase's impact and ensure that the magazine continues to grace the halls of Ohio colleges and communities. I am incredibly thankful to the readers, contributors, and my fellow board members.

