



Editor's Letter

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Welcome to the third installment of *OUR Journal*! This issue marks the one-year anniversary of the first publication of the journal. When Lucy Gubbins and Drew Serres, founders of *OUR Journal*, first submitted a proposal for the journal, administrators were wary of their lofty goal of publishing the first issue in spring 2012. The *OUR Journal* editorial board, comprised entirely of University of Oregon undergraduates, proved any doubters very wrong; the first issue was indeed published in fall 2012 and immediately assumed a bi-annual publication cycle. This summer I assumed the role of executive editor, under the great guidance and support of former editor Lucy Gubbins. I am forever grateful for Lucy's fantastic mentorship and shining example of leadership and organization. It is hard to believe it has only been one year considering the momentous strides the journal has made!

In this issue, we are proud to feature the work of no less than 21 University of Oregon Undergraduate students who collaborated to produce four tremendous articles. Two articles, "Restoration Monitoring on the McKenzie River, Oregon" and "Assessing the Relationship Between Topography and Plant Diversity in Restored and Remnant Wet Prairies," are written by large teams of Environmental Leadership Program students who display inspiring collaboration and teamwork in their joint endeavors. Sierra Predovich's article, "Stomata Density of Orchids and Cloud Forest Humidity," is the first *OUR Journal* article that features research conducted abroad. Sierra conducted her research in the cloud forests of Costa Rica. Finally, Alexander Robinson's rigorous study on post-surgery dietary intake breaks *OUR Journal* into the exciting and fast-moving field of human physiology, a department which had never been featured in the journal.

The publication of this journal truly would not be possible without the support of many dedicated individuals. This issue marks the last contributions of our first group of outgoing editors who begin their post-undergraduate careers. Emily, Eva, Erin, and Lucy, your mark will forever be left upon the journal as the founding members who molded the journal into what it is today. Our new editors, Zeph and Meredith, jumped wholeheartedly into the editing and publication process, enthusiastically and so successfully rising to the high standards set by the fantastic group of outgoing editors. Alex and Vishesh, the third-year veterans of *OUR Journal*, have been incredible mentors and examples to the entire editorial board, including myself. The faculty advisors, Dr. Barbara Jenkins and Dr. Kevin Hatfield, gracefully advise the journal's trajectory. I am so appreciative of the trust and great support that Barbara and Kevin provide to the journal. Finally, this issue would not have been published without the tremendous technical support provided by the University of Oregon Libraries, and especially Karen Estlund and John Russell. Thank you!

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