



Letter From the Editor

Charlotte Rheingold, * Comparative Literature

Welcome to the seventh issue of the Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal! We are eager to share four wonderful undergraduate research projects on a range of topics covering World War II noir, empathy and disgust, the economics of Oregon public schools, and the use of human material from mummies as medicine. We are also pleased to include vibrant cover art from an Art major and an art spread by a Chemistry major that each evoke an environmental awareness in their conception and execution. As this issue shows, OUR Journal has once again successfully achieved its goal of providing a multidisciplinary platform for motivated students to display their work.

With an Editorial Board mostly comprised of new members, I would like to thank our student Editors who quickly learned the ins-and-outs of OUR Journal and who have shown unwavering commitment in their support of undergraduate research. I am proud of our group's camaraderie and the initiative that has been shown, which has made the process of publication a smooth one. I would like to acknowledge graduating Senior Sage Crusier, who completed her studies in English this term and has her sights set on graduate school. Sage made invaluable contributions to OUR Journal during her year and a half with us, and we will surely miss her!

I would like to especially thank Ian McNeely, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, for writing this issue's guest editorial, which highlights a few of the many benefits of undergraduate research as well as the value of a liberal arts education. I also, of course, would like to acknowledge the continuing support of our faculty mentors Barbara Jenkins of the UO Libraries and Kevin Hatfield of University Housing, the Department of History, and the Clark Honors College. Their guidance in assembling this issue and helping to expand the breadth of OUR Journal is greatly appreciated by the Editorial Board and myself.

Thank you for taking the time to explore the research of our exceptional authors and for supporting undergraduate research. Enjoy!

*Charlotte Rheingold is a Senior studying Comparative Literature with minors in French and Economics. This issue is her second as Chief Editor, and she has been involved with OUR Journal since January of 2013. Please email her at ourj.uoregon.edu if you would like to discuss this season's issue, or have any questions.