



Letter from the Editor

Charlotte Rheingold, Comparative Literature*

Welcome to the eighth issue of the Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal. As a graduating senior, I could not be more proud to have been a member of *OUR Journal* for the past three years and to advocate for the rich undergraduate research activities at the University of Oregon. My time working on the Editorial Board has shown me the importance of undergraduate research and the vital role it plays in the educational journey of students. I never tire of seeing the immense creativity and dedication shown by student researchers like the authors featured in this issue, whose exceptional work represents disciplines as varied as Economics, Creative Writing, Comparative Literature, History, Astronomy, and Environmental Studies.

However, the most rewarding aspect of being part of *OUR Journal* has been working with the Editorial Board, which is where I have learned the most about the power of collaborating with my peers. Our eight graduating seniors this year will be greatly missed as each of them has contributed immensely to our work. I would like to specially recognize Mari Saif and Janelle Croy for their three years on the Editorial Board and the initiative they consistently showed. In addition, I would like to thank Michelle Nguyen, Gavin Cronkrite, Nayeon Kim, Ben Leamon, Macey Davis, and Andrew Swift for the commitment they have shown to both *OUR Journal* and to supporting undergraduate research during their time on the Editorial Board.

Beyond the Editorial Board, *OUR Journal* receives generous support from across campus. I would like to personally thank our faculty advisors Barbara Jenkins and Kevin Hatfield for their continuous guidance and their invaluable mentorship. I would also like to show our great appreciation for the Dean of Libraries, Adriene Lim, who graciously wrote our guest editorial.

I am excited for you to delve into this issue so that you can see for yourself the exceptional research conducted by University of Oregon Students. Enjoy!

*Charlotte Rheingold is a senior Clark Honors College student graduating with a degree in Comparative Literature, with minors in French and Economics. She has been on the Editorial Board since Winter 2013 and served as Chief Editor since Spring 2014. After graduation, she will work abroad as an *assistante de langue* with the Teaching Assistantship Program in France (TAPIF).