



Letter from the Editor

Aidan Grealish, Digital Arts and Clark Honors College*

Fall at the University of Oregon is a time of transition, and this issue is no exception. As a publication staffed entirely by and focused on undergraduates, we as a journal must adapt in order to keep up with the constant flow of undergraduate research and innovation. Naturally, this often means that Editors come and go as they graduate and move on to bigger and better things. Our superb former Editor-in-Chief, Charlotte Rheingold, graduated this past spring and is now living and working in France post-graduation; we truly wish her all the best and are thankful for all the work she did for the OUR Journal. Along with a new Editor-in-Chief, we are also welcoming an almost entirely new Editorial Board. I am excited to help usher in a new era of the OUR Journal as one that will foster truly interdisciplinary, creative scholarship through our growing relationship with the Undergraduate Symposium and the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

As we reflect on the foundation laid by former Editors and look toward the future, I would like to express my gratitude to the faculty and staff that make our publication possible. I would like to thank Karl Reasoner in particular, who we have featured as the writer of this issue's guest editorial. He is one of the greatest proponents of undergraduate research here at the University of Oregon and he has offered us a perspective on the importance of research on the future of both scholarship and society. As the program manager of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, he has a hand in directly encouraging research through stipends and networking opportunities; I hope that we will soon see the results of that support in the form of manuscripts that we can publish in OUR Journal. As ever, I would also like to acknowledge the support of our wonderful faculty mentors: Barbara Jenkins of UO Libraries and Kevin Hatfield of the Department of History and the Clark Honors College. Their help and guidance in this transitional time has been invaluable, and I cannot fully express my gratitude for their patience and assistance as we move forward into a new era of the Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal.

Fall 2015 is a new start for us, and I am thrilled to present the ninth issue of the Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal and my first as Editor-in-Chief. The Editorial Board and I are very happy to showcase a selection of some of the most diverse and interesting research projects conducted here at the University of Oregon. From black holes to absurdist theatre, we truly have a wide range of departments and subjects to highlight in this issue.

Thank you so much for celebrating undergraduate research with us. Enjoy!

*Aidan Grealish is a third year Digital Arts and General Science double major in the Clark Honors College. As a researcher in the Page lab in the Center for Sustainable Materials Chemistry, a peer tutor in the Art Department, and an OURJ editor, she works within a diverse range of subjects. Her research interests include human-centered design, digital humanities, and data ethics. Please direct correspondence to aidang@uoregon.edu.