



Letter from the Editor

Sandra Dorning, Marine Biology*

Dear readers,

Just like that, another school year has come to an end. For the editors of OURJ, this is bittersweet. This Spring 2017 publication marks the first issue for most of our new editorial board, who have worked incredibly hard to learn the ropes and present the best assortment of undergraduate research possible. Our new editors hail from a variety of majors, from Journalism to Philosophy to Planning, Public Policy, and Management. Not only is this a wonderful assortment of hard-working and intelligent students, but their diverse academic backgrounds epitomize the interdisciplinary nature of OURJ. However, this issue marks the last OURJ publication for our three graduating seniors: Ainsley Taylor, Jocelyn Taylor, and myself. We have served on OURJ for most of our college careers, part of a prosperous journey that began for the three of us on the Undergraduate Research floor of the Global Scholars Hall dormitory in 2013. It is exciting to know that we will carry our OURJ editorial experience with us throughout our future endeavors.

My ride as OURJ Editor-in-Chief has been a short one since I took over this fall, but it has been a wonderful one too. This year OURJ hosted our first-ever panel at the UO Undergraduate Research Symposium, which featured oral presentations by OURJ authors Paulla Santos (published in our Fall 2015 issue) and Seth Temple (published in this issue). We look forward to furthering this collaboration in future years as OURJ and the Symposium continue to grow and celebrate undergraduate research. I would personally like to thank OURJ faculty advisors Barbara Jenkins and Kevin Hatfield for their unwavering support throughout the year; stepping in as Editor-in-Chief was a steep learning curve, but was made possible through their guidance. It is with great excitement that I announce my succession as Editor-in-Chief by editor Allison Zhou, who I have no doubt will work to make OURJ the best that it can be.

This issue, as ever, presents undergraduate research work from a wide array of disciplines, spanning from literary analysis of contemporary science fiction to economic analyses of immigration. We are pleased to feature the work of two 2017 Library Research Award winners, Michael McIntosh and Tate James. I encourage readers to peruse the work of our great authors and reflect on the themes they cover: climate change, immigration, cloning, and the representation of women in media. We are also proud to feature a guest editorial from Professor Paul Peppis, Director of the Oregon Humanities Center, who discusses the great research work conducted at the University of Oregon.

It has been a pleasure serving OURJ readers and the greater UO academic community this year. Please enjoy our 11th issue of the *Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal*!

* Sandra is a senior in the Clark Honors College graduating with a degree in Marine Biology and a minor in Political Science this spring. She has worked on the OURJ editorial board since spring 2014, and has served as Editor-in-Chief since November 2016. Please direct correspondence regarding this issue of OURJ to ourj@uoregon.edu.