



Letter from the Editor

Joshua Pearman, Psychology*

Dear readers,

Our inspiration to conduct research can come from anywhere. For some, it might be an interesting idea from a lecture, or a unique detail from a research article. For others, it could be an observation of the world around us, whether it is of the behavior of people or the inner workings of nature. Each day we are all struck by this inspiration, as our surroundings are rich with the potential to draw out our latent curiosity. One of the rewarding qualities of research is when we become curious enough to pursue this inspiration, wherever it might take us. The OURJ exists to celebrate this curiosity, as each of these works reflect their author's passion to follow their questions to a logical end.

I first joined OURJ my freshman year, and have had the privilege of working alongside an ever-evolving editorial board. With each completed issue, I've learned more about the high quality of research that undergraduates conduct. As Editor-in-Chief, I hope that OURJ can serve as another source of inspiration for undergraduate research. To carry out this mission, the OURJ editorial board is composed of student editors who are also passionate about undergraduate research. In the past year, our board said goodbye to Allison Zhou, our previous Editor-in-Chief, along with Grieta King, Doug Sam, and Amber Shackelford. We thank them for their numerous contributions, and wish them the best as they go on to do bigger and better things.

The following issue presents undergraduate research from a rich diversity of academic disciplines that reflect the world we live in. This research examines a philosophy of emotions, analyses of Jamaican poetry and feminist literature, observations of gender and class in Beirut, and reports on how heat and precipitation can influence plant life. In this issue, I would like to particularly highlight the numerous types of methods used for research, from careful textual analysis to behavioral observations and interviews to experimental manipulation. These authors not only pursued their research questions, but put careful thought into how they would answer these questions.

Finally, I want to thank the current editorial board, as this issue is only possible through their unwavering commitment to undergraduate research. The words you see are the product of their countless hours of work. I also want to thank Barbara Jenkins of UO Libraries, as her role as faculty advisor has been crucial to this time of transition.

At long last, please enjoy our 14th issue of the *Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal*!

* Joshua is a junior psychology major in the Robert D. Clark Honors College. He is a research assistant in the Social and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory and the Personality and Social Dynamics Laboratory, and is working on developing research and data analysis skills to pursue graduate study in industrial and organizational psychology. He is interested in the science of teams in organizations, and hopes to both conduct and apply group dynamics research in the future. Outside of academics, Joshua enjoys reading sci-fi novels and watching films with his friends. Please direct correspondence regarding this issue of OURJ to ourj@uoregon.edu.