

Meet the Editorial Board



Kyla Schmitt, Editor-in-Chief – Publications

Kyla Schmitt is a second-year Clark Honors College student majoring in environmental science and humanities and minoring in English and economics. In addition to working with OURJ, Kyla is also a peer mentor with Affiliated Students for Undergraduate Research and Engagement (ASURE), treasurer of the UO Society for Ecological Restoration, and member of the Ocean and Ice Lab. Beyond the UO, Kyla conducts ecological research on crayfish and their habitats and head-coaches two secondary-school speech and debate teams. Outside of work, Kyla loves hiking and exploring, taking and editing photographs, curating dozens of Spotify playlists, and collecting houseplants.



Jay Taylor, Editor-in-Chief – Outreach

Jay Taylor is a senior at UO majoring in linguistics and computer science. They have served as the Financial Coordinator for the University of Oregon LGBTQA3 office and co-president of the UO Model United Nations club and now help lead the Board and Card Gamer's Association for Maximum Nerdy (BACGAMN). Jay discovered a strong interest in research when they presented on the topic of mental health in South Korea at the 2020 Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium. Currently, their research examines autism in a new, non-clinical context. They are passionate about learning new languages and teaching, and they hope to make the world a better place through education for all ages and individuals, regardless of background. In their downtime, they enjoy video games, hiking, and playing board games with friends.



Sarah Beaudoin, Senior Editor

Sarah Beaudoin is currently in her senior year in the Clark Honors College, majoring in chemistry and also studying biology and science communication. Outside of classes, she lives in a sustainability-based and multigenerational co-op, volunteers for campus organizations such as the Climate Justice League and in the larger community of Eugene, and does research in the Boettcher Lab. In the lab, Sarah conducts electrochemical and physical chemistry experiments to better understand water electrolysis with the hopes of producing hydrogen fuel to mitigate the need for fossil fuels. Sarah is originally from rural Enterprise, Oregon, and enjoys biking, gardening, sewing, backpacking, and ceramics in her free time.



Alexander Aghdaei, Editor

Alexander Aghdaei is a freshman at the University of Oregon majoring in data science and political science. Much of his academic and career interests have revolved around his past involvement in local and statewide campaigns and work as a communications analyst for Stand for Children. His research interests revolve around the application of statistical methods with an emphasis on comparative history and international relations, including a recent focus on applying natural language processing. Outside of academics, Alexander is an avid ultrarunner/mountaineer, amateur game developer, and proud dog dad of a miniature Australian shepherd named Sofie.



Teagan Furbish, Editor

Teagan Furbish is a Clark Honors College senior majoring in Biochemistry and specializing in plant molecular biology. Passionate about discovery in and preservation of our ecosystems, Teagan has worked on research projects spanning from landscape ecology to electrochemistry. Currently, she is working to engineer proteins for artificial gene expression in chloroplasts. With a deep interest in science communication, she hopes to use oral and graphical means to relay the findings of complicated studies to people of all academic specializations. Toward this end, she helped to found the “Climate Justice Network” podcast at UO. Extracurricularly, Teagan leads rock-climbing education trips for women, competes as a part of the UO climbing team, and teaches yoga. In her free time, Teagan loves to read, embroider, slackline, swim, and explore the outdoors.



Rowan Glass, Editor

Rowan Glass is a senior transfer student majoring in cultural anthropology and minoring in Latin American studies and history. A combination of lifelong wanderlust and academic research commitments have taken Rowan far afield across Latin America and the former Soviet Union. Aside from editing with OURJ, Rowan is engaged in long-term ethnographic research with the Kamëntsá people of the Sibundoy Valley, an ecologically and culturally unique crossroads between the high Andes and the vast Amazonian lowlands of southwest Colombia. Rowan’s research in Colombia focuses on the intersection of cultural and territorial autonomy among the Kamëntsá as they fight for cultural survival and ecosovereignty over their ancestral territory. Similar themes animate Rowan’s interest in subaltern resistance movements around the world; he is currently preparing to intern with several NGOs in Senegal this spring. Apart from his research and travel interests, Rowan enjoys photography, creative writing, and indie films.