

Changes to the URJ: Editor's Introduction

As a student majoring in a field related to computer science, I did not expect to be an editor for a research journal. Nevertheless, I am proud to be here as a reviewer for two years and an editor for my third. The Honors Program at UCCS is now leading the university's *Undergraduate Research Journal* (URJ) and this is the first issue being published under the new management. Both the *URJ* and the Honors Program are young, and we believe this partnership will be mutually beneficial for the entire UCCS campus.

The Undergraduate Research Journal at UCCS is an online publication that covers all topics relevant to college academia. It is open access so all publications are available electronically for you to download and share. The *URJ* publishes quality research by undergraduate UCCS students. Typical submissions range from typical research papers to literature reviews to undergraduate theses on various topics representing the diverse undergraduate research that takes place on this campus.

This issue includes several papers on a wide range of topics ranging from the conflict in Darfur to indentured servitude in colonial America, to the food industry, and more. The first paper, "Rape as a Weapon of Genocide," discusses how sexual violence can be just as devastating as any other weapon in a fighting conflict. The second paper focuses on the development of the United States and reports the necessity of understanding the role of indentured servitude in Early Colonial America. The economy, the conditions of workers in Europe and the colonial areas, and comparisons of servitude between the different colonies are included in this paper.

The next two papers address food issues, but from very different perspectives. Ariane Peveto's paper addresses the newly researched health benefits of chocolate and how companies may use it to obtain profit from making people healthier. Next, "Food or Not...Who Makes the Rules?" takes the role of educating the reader on the negatives of processed foods in comparison to the benefits of organic foods. It goes into detail on nutrition issues and the chance to decrease their effects such as obesity and diabetes.

The final two papers featured in this issue are commentary essays, a new feature to the *Undergraduate Research Journal*. This section highlights controversial issues by presenting both research and opinion to argue a perspective. This first essay, "Rotten Tomatoes: Truths about Exploited Tomato Field Laborers," highlights the exploitation of illegal immigrants in the tomato industry, revealing unethical practices against fellow human beings, and suggests how the reader can improve this situation. In the second essay, Haley Heinemann criticizes the ineffectiveness of a video game representing the struggle of Darfurians in obtaining action from its players.

As the *URJ* continues to grow, we hope to share a greater number of papers covering ever more topics to spark further undergraduate research at UCCS.

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