

Editorial Introduction

Thank you for reading the *Undergraduate Research Journal* of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. The *URJ* provides a virtual community for students to publish their original work in a freely accessible medium. All content is produced, reviewed, and edited by undergraduate students.

It has been a year of growth for the *URJ*, and as we continue to grow and stretch our reach further into the UCCS academic community, there are bound to be growing pains. Creating this edition of *URJ* was no exception and has proved to be quite a journey. We have worked with some incredible authors and staff members, and we feel that because of the obstacles that we have dealt with as a group that the *URJ* is stronger than ever.

When we started this edition of *URJ*, we did not have a clear theme in mind. Working through the stages of reviewing and editing revealed one detail – the articles that our staff had selected to publish had little in common. It was then that we realized the one thing that holds these articles together is the one thing that separates them – their diversity; hence, the theme for this edition of *URJ* was born. This edition is celebrating what the *URJ* is all about – the diversity of students and their research. Within this edition, you will find articles from the fields of mechanical engineering, math and physics, biology, education, English, and history. Each piece selected presents the author's unique view on their area of research and provides new ways of understanding our world.

We begin this issue with two articles that delve into the current practices of two different institutions – UCCS and the US Food and Drug Administration. First, we start with Christopher Varano's "Disconnect of Intent: The Disparity Between Teacher Intention and Student Interpretation Concerning Page Requirements in College Writing," an article that demonstrates the gap between teacher and student expectations when it comes to writing assignments. It is followed by Jordan Cunningham's "Milk, Moo, or Man Made?" in which she questions the current practices of cloning and its effect on the food market.

Our next two articles are scientific studies from UCCS's Mechanical Engineering and Mathematical departments. "Numerical Studies of the KP Line Solitons" by Michelle Osborne and Tommy McDowell is an analysis of the Kadomtsev-Petviashvili equation. In Aida Ferro's "Variation of Properties During a Vessel Discharge," the author uses experimentation to explain the basics of rocket propulsion.

Our last two articles look into politics from two very different angles. The first is Zachary Rogers' "To What End: Machiavelli, Natural Law, and Politics." In this article, Rogers analyzes Machiavelli's *The Prince* and compares it to Natural Law Theory where he concludes that Natural Law is the superior of the two. We close with Christopher Bacavis' "Driving Tyranny Home: A Narrative Consideration of Pavlensky's *Fixation*," an article that uses rhetorical analysis and narrative criticism to examine the performance piece's commentary on governmental power.

We hope that you enjoy reading these articles as much as we enjoyed working to publish them. A special thanks goes out to our faculty advisors, Michelle Neely and Tabatha Farney. Without your guidance, we would not have the great publication that we do. We would also like to thank all of the students who were involved with the publication process. These individuals

are recognized in the Acknowledgements section of this issue. Without all of hard work that you put in, this edition would not have been possible.

As always, we encourage all UCCS undergraduates to submit their works to us and to join our publication team. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested, please contact us at urj@uccs.edu.

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