

Acknowledgements

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Editorial Introduction

It's always exciting as an editor to sit down and start the publication process. I am never quite sure what I will find when reading the submitted pieces; it is much like setting out on a journey with random twists and turns along the way. It was with this sense of adventure that I began this semester's publication of the *Undergraduate Research Journal*, and as always, I was not disappointed with our submissions.

We truly had a diverse group of submissions and that is reflected in our selections for the Fall 2016 publication. I decided that the theme for this edition should be diversity, as this group of articles truly represents the incredibly diverse people and their academic interests here at UCCS.

Our first article, "Reluctant Writers in Elementary School: A Problem with a Solution" by Ashley Feil delves into the causes for reluctant writers while thoroughly examining possible solutions to the problem.

We follow this with two articles that take in-depth examinations of pop culture. Madeleine Binkley's "An Argument on Disney and Psychological Development" questions Disney's influence over children and what it ultimately means for a child's development. Jayne Simpson's "3 Halves of a Whole: Homosexuality and Self-Acceptance in BBC's *Sherlock*" examines the homosexual tropes represented in all three of *Sherlock*'s main characters and how they reflect current social constructs.

Our next piece, "The Seam between Romanticism and Realism" by Christopher Varano, not only evaluates Romanticism and Realism by examining "Life in the Iron Mills." Varano also questions whether or not Romanticism and Realism can be seen as truly different.

We then consider two distinct US historical periods with pieces by Aaron Birks and Stephen Kynor. Birks' "Dangerous Obsession: The Troubled History of US-Cuban Relations" examines the Cold War era US and how its handling of Cuba created the rift that still exists today. Kynor's "The Moses of Charleston: Denmark Vesey" examines how Vesey's life ultimately influenced future generations in the battle for equality.

We close with "A Meta-Analysis Essay on the Environmental Resistance Movement and the Role of its Deniers" by Austin Routt. The author looks at environmental resistance and its influence within all areas of our culture with the added insight that as a movement it is unopposed.

Thank you for reading this semester's edition of the *URJ*. As always, we encourage all UCCS undergraduates to

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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.