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Editorial Introduction

It has been an exciting semester for the *Undergraduate Research Journal* with huge amounts of growth and progress. Our staff size has increased in numbers, making the road to final publication much easier. We also have a newly added faculty advisory board (FAB) made up of UCCS professors from multiple fields, professors who are as passionate as the journal staff about getting the word out about the *URJ* and seeing it grow.

A big part of our growth this semester was our rebranding. Thanks to Elena Clark, a UCCS alumna, for working closely with Brandon to create our fantastic new logo. We have already used it in our fliers for this semester, but look for it soon on the journal homepage as well.

The biggest change that we implemented for this issue was the incorporation of reviews into an actual English class. Thanks to Professor Syn for your enthusiastic interest in and support of our publication and for willingly integrating it into your class. Because this collaboration was so successful, the students of Professor Syn's classes will continue to be reviewers for our journal, streamlining our publication process and making it possible to get the maximum amount of submissions reviewed in a semester.

In addition to our partnership with Professor Syn's class, we are looking forward to our developing partnership with the Undergraduate Research Academy. We will begin our journey with them this summer as another means of engaging UCCS students in the reviewing *URJ* articles.

It is because of these changes and because of all of the hard work put in by our staff, reviewers, and faculty advisors that we have the wonderful spring issue that we do.

As luck would have it (or I guess really has the reviewers would have it), every article chosen for this issue takes a closer look into a subject that is prominent in daily life - pop culture. Not only do the three articles for this publication speak about pop culture, but all three of them delve into their chosen subjects to see what effect they have on society.

We begin with a stasis map that takes a close look at Disney and its messages to young women. In "The Feminine Mystique According to Disney: A Defense for Better Media," Heather Gutekunst analyzes how Disney's portrayals of its female characters affect children.

Next we travel to a galaxy far far away in Michael Wheeler's "Arguing Progressivism in a Movie Theater Far Far Away." This article takes a closer look at the female characters in the Star Wars franchise to determine whether or not its

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female characters can be seen as progressive in the feminist movement.

We close with a look at a children's pop culture phenomenon, Kidz Bop. Halston Ashely Reasor uses multiple lenses to analyze this company's practices at taking top 40 adult hits and selling them as appropriate for children. Her article, "*Kidz Bop*: Re-packaged Music, How "Censored" Music Teaches Children Gender Role Conformity, Race Identification, and KGOY," takes a hard look at what effects packaging adult music to children actually has on their perceptions of the world.

As always, thank you for reading this semester's edition of the *URJ*. As we continue to grow as a journal, we will be incorporating more outreach programs to courses across campus. These programs will be for recruiting new members as well as for education students on what the scholarly review process looks like. It is our hope to not only recruit new members and submissions but to expand our presence at UCCS.

We encourage all UCCS students to submit their undergraduate research works to us and to join our publication team. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested, please contact us.