

From the Publishers

We are proud to introduce the premier issue of the *Undergraduate Research Journal at UCCS*, an electronic journal highlighting undergraduate research at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. The *Undergraduate Research Journal at UCCS*, or *URJ*, serves as a resource for supporting the development of research and writing skills at the undergraduate level. *URJ* gives students the means to publish and highlight their research. *URJ* is an open access publication; the journal is available free online, in electronic format, and may be downloaded and reproduced without permission.

In our role as publisher, the Kraemer Family Library at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs collects and makes available student research via Open Journal Systems, an open source journal management and publishing system. All content is produced by students and their collaborators, such as faculty and/or staff. The Library does not critique or edit papers, other than to verify that certain citation standards are met.

There are no strict requirements such as paper length or topic; papers must be authored by undergraduate UCCS students and use proper citations. While we will group papers by topics, each issue will feature a variety of subjects, reflecting students' research interests. The publishers retain the right to not publish any papers they feel do not fit into the journal's purpose or theme. If you have any questions about this, please contact us.

The first issue of *URJ* starts off with two thesis papers from a political science honors class. The first paper looks at the adoption of democracy in Arab countries, giving a historical and current looks at selected countries. The second paper discusses the papal election process and the indicators that could be used to predict the next pope. These papers represent the diversity found in political science and prove there is a lot more to political science than just the current elections.

As we move forward with the *Undergraduate Research Journal at UCCS*, we look to promote undergraduate scholarship on the UCCS campus and introduce our readers to the range of student research interests.

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