

Acknowledging the URJ's Reviewers

The *Undergraduate Research Journal* would like to thank the following reviewers that helped make this issue possible.

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Rhetoric and Writing

The students of the 2018 Undergraduate
Research Academy

Interested in helping review for our next issue or have questions about the peer review process?
Contact Susan Vandagriff at svandagr@uccs.edu.

Editorial Introduction

Timothy Vilgiate

Hello, and thank you for reading the Undergraduate Research Journal (and for taking the time to read our editorial introduction). We were lucky enough to receive a large number of submissions at the end of the spring semester, and during one of our first meetings of the summer, we decided to publish a summer issue instead of waiting until the end of this fall. First of all, we'd like to thank all of the authors who took the time to submit their articles, and to thank the peer reviewers who generously gave those authors feedback and comments on their writing. We'd also like to thank Michelle Neely, the faculty advisor for the journal, as well as Susan Vandagriff and Tabatha Farney from the Kraemer Family Library. Susan and Tabatha have both attended and helped facilitate peer review workshops, and have worked hard to help the journal operate behind the scenes. Susan also created the LibGuide for URJ peer reviewers, which was a great help at both of the workshops over the summer. Last but not least, congratulations to Laura Helmreich, the editor of the URJ who graduated in May, and welcome to Addison Rhodes, our new editor.

The UCCS Undergraduate Research Journal exists not only as a platform for students to publish their work and to participate in the scholarly publishing process, but also as a place where student researchers can initiate conversations within and outside of their discipline. The articles published in this issue are, in one respect, very different. The first two are historical papers concentrating on different geographical areas and time periods, the third paper comes from the nursing department, and the fourth paper analyzes Helen of Troy from a feminist perspective. However, the articles in this issue all share a common thread in that they look at ways that we as humans handle, approach, and understand various forms of disease in various forms. It's interesting to be able to read about modern day best practices for managing a deadly disease in hospitals, and then to read about the struggles of George Washington against smallpox in the 18th Century. The third paper examines St. Catherine of Siena, who some historians have speculated suffered from a form of anorexia. St. Catherine died after fasting—the author questions why this act was not recognized as “self-murder” or suicide. The final paper looks at a much different kind of disease, examining diseases like war and sexism that infect our culture and our society. This inadvertent conversation about different kinds of diseases and how they are managed is just one of the many threads and connections between the papers presented in this issue, which I hope the readers of our summer issue will find interesting.

Katherine Latona

It is with much pleasure that we present this Summer 2018 issue, the result of a clever balance between work and play that is so characteristic of the warmer months. Sometimes working from vastly different regions of the country, the URJ editorial team found a way to collaborate and maintain open communication with each other, the authors, and our faculty advisor Michelle Neely.

We were pleasantly surprised to receive a good amount of submissions, all of which varied greatly in terms of their academic disciplines, topics and writing styles. The entries were as diverse and interesting as each member of our team, who each had an opportunity to shine and put forth

their areas of expertise. I am proud to be part of this great team that now includes sophomore Addison Rhodes. Though geographically separated at times, the editorial team has solidified in an unexpected way and this will no doubt come across in journal issues to come.

We have great plans to promote the growth and improvement of the journal over the coming months, but for now please enjoy this Summer 2018 issue and do consider submitting some of your own work. We would love to read and publish it!

Addison Rhodes

Hello readers, my name is Addison Rhodes and I'm a junior Biomedical Sciences student who began editing for the URJ this past summer. I want to speak on my experience so far and what it's meant to me. When my interest in becoming a copyeditor for the URJ was initially piqued, my main motives for pursuing it were to hone my own writing and to learn more about the research process for various fields. Thankfully, since joining I've been pleased to fulfill my initial motives, but I've also been given additional unexpected fulfillment. For instance, I'm grateful to work with a group of motivated people who are not only adept at their jobs, but also just good folks in general who make me feel proud to be part of the team. Like your family, you can't choose your coworkers, but I feel fortunate that I get to work with wonderful people who get along well. Another unexpected benefit of my new job is all of the cool papers I get to read. I've learned so much intriguing information (especially from fields outside my own), engaging my curiosity and love of learning, which is always a plus. I am eager to see what papers will be submitted in the future and what I will learn from them.