

## Fall 2022 Editorial

by Susan Vandagriff

Hello readers, and welcome to volume 15 issue 2 of the *URJ-UCCS*! I'm delighted to be able to share some of the amazing research UCCS undergraduates have created. First, I want to thank our authors and reviewers for their hard work and time that went into this issue. This journal would not exist without the incredible research, writing, critical thinking, and careful review that these students provide. As a faculty advisor to this journal, I continue to be impressed year after year by students' curiosity, ingenuity, and insight whether serving as authors or as reviewers.

This issue features five articles that examine the causes and consequences of current events in the United States and Afghanistan, question the nature of the self, and consider the compromises and underpinnings of America's political past.

In "The Great Game Continues: Afghanistan's Past, Present, and Future," author Dominic J. Markham looks at the United States' recent withdrawal from Afghanistan. Markham contextualizes this latest retreat of a foreign power from Afghanistan with that country's long history of imperial interference, unwelcoming terrain, and existing ethnic and tribal tensions.

Jace Toon's "Stigma and the Failures of Opioid Legislation" questions whether legislation that criminalizes opioid use and attitudes surrounding addiction are worsening the United States' ongoing opioid epidemic. Toon examines how stigmatizing language and legislation ignores many of the systemic and biological causes for opioid addiction.

"Nagarjuna's Refutation of the Self" is Tyler Jungbauer's analysis of Buddhist philosopher Nagarjuna's *Mulamadhyamakakarika*. Jungbauer argues that Nagarjuna's conception of the self is ultimately eliminativist, denying any existence of the self as existing independently or as reducible to either physical or psychological components.

Abigail Kopetzky's "Imagery of the American Suffrage Movement: The Strategic Implementation of Traditional Gender Roles" analyzes the depiction of gender in pro-suffrage artwork, including postcards and political cartoons. Kopetzky illuminates and critiques how the suffrage movement used traditional gender roles and imagery to sway public opinion in favor of women's voting rights.

Finally, Elle Markley's "Societies, Gangs, and Parties: How Sociopolitical Societies Influenced Early American Politics" examines the influence of secret, exclusive societies on early American politics, specifically the role of Tammany Hall. Markley follows Tammany Hall through the early decades of American politics, noting its prominent members and allies, its gang involvement, and its interference in elections.

Again, my thanks to the wonderful authors and reviewers whose hard work made this issue possible, and thank you to our readers for your continued interest and support!

## Special Thanks to the URJ's Reviewers

You'll notice that all of our student peer reviewers this year are listed as senior reviewers because all have contributed a high number of reviews over multiple years. Their willingness and dedication to contributing their time, attention, and editorial expertise to their classmates is remarkable and commendable. The URJ-UCCS would like to sincerely thank the following reviewers who helped make this issue possible:

Emelie David\*

Alyssa Martinez\*

Ashley Peacock\*

Raven Sanchez\*

Annika Schmidt\*

Abigail Senne\*

Sanam Waintrub\*

And faculty who assisted with reviewing:

Larry Eames

Jess LaBozetta

\* Denotes senior reviewers, students who have reviewed three or more papers