

# Letter from the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present Volume Three of the *James Madison Undergraduate Research Journal*.

The six texts here—from Biology, Communication, Education, Political Science, and Psychology—embody *JMURJ*'s commitment to promoting, publishing, and sharing the diverse research and scholarship that undergraduate students produce in disciplines across campus. They represent the tip of a big iceberg: students from all seven JMU undergraduate colleges in 24 different majors submitted their work to *JMURJ* over the past year. With nearly 20 submissions already slated for faculty review and more submissions coming in, the future is indeed bright.

Sharing all of this great work kept our Design and Outreach teams busy. We created a thick stack of print and online stories; designed slides, stickers, posters, and even coffee mugs; participated for the fourth year in a row in the Honors Symposium; and continued to publish on JMU's Scholarly Commons, where *JMURJ* articles have been downloaded more than 5,200 times in the past year. Along the way, we broadened our social media presence. Check out the new *JMURJ* Pinterest page (<https://www.pinterest.com/jmurjeditorial/>) and this volume's front cover, which features Cassey Jennings' winning entry in *JMURJ*'s first Facebook photo contest (we've included other deserving entries on page 59).

As always, we are indebted to the JMU faculty members, administrators, and administrative assistants who have offered their insight and support over the years. Almost 70 faculty members volunteered to review manuscripts for Volume Three alone, and the next page lists 52 first-time faculty reviewers from 21 different departments.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy the excellent research and scholarship created by JMU students.

The *JMURJ* Editorial Board

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