

Letter from the Editors

Dear Reader,

Welcome to Volume Two of the *James Madison Undergraduate Research Journal*!

With the publication of our second volume, we have discovered that a successful journal is greater than its product—it's the relationships surrounding the enterprise that make it a valuable, coherent presence in the university community. It's the common ground where students and faculty work together to support and encourage research efforts beyond the classroom and showcase the variety of undergraduate work done at JMU.

This year, we've focused on making *JMURJ* a sustainable publication. The journal has continued to develop relationships with organizations such as the JMU Office of Research and Scholarship, the Honors Program, and the JMU Libraries. *JMURJ* is now hosted on Scholarly Commons, where it has been downloaded nearly 2,000 times internationally at Volume Two's final publication date. Closer to home, we have worked with over 50 reviewers and have received submissions from all six undergraduate colleges.

This volume features four distinct disciplines: History; Biology; Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication; and Psychology. We are proud to present these articles as examples of the excellent scholarship produced by students at James Madison University. Going forward, our goal is to publish research from each of the six undergraduate colleges and to expand our Faculty Review Board to represent every discipline on campus.

As we begin Volume Three, we look forward to continuing our mission to promote, publish, and share diverse undergraduate research at JMU.

The *JMURJ* Editorial Board

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