

# Letter from the Editors

Dear Reader,

Welcome to Volume Eight of the *James Madison Undergraduate Research Journal*! Amid the challenges, difficulties, and even heartbreak of the last year, this volume is a testament to the resilience of our JMU undergraduate researchers and scholars, our faculty reviewers, and our *JMURJ* Editorial Board members.

Volume Eight includes seven pieces from six majors in four JMU colleges: CISE, CAL, CVPA, and CHBS. In addition to excellent work by students in Psychology, History, and Health Sciences—majors previously represented in *JMURJ*—we have been delighted to publish submissions from Music, Computer Science, and Intelligence Analysis. Congratulations to our authors and to the professors and advisors who fostered their research and scholarship.

Thank you also to our faculty reviewers who volunteered their time and expertise in supporting *JMURJ*. Through eight *JMURJ* volumes, we've enlisted 233 different JMU faculty reviewers, including 19 Volume Eight first-timers. Your continuing support helps make publication a real, immediate possibility for undergraduate researchers and scholars in all of JMU's different disciplines, genres, and media.

Thank you, finally, to the 19 undergraduate students who served on the *JMURJ* Editorial Board during the 2020-2021 academic year. Our board met in person just once, back in August 2020, and the Spring 2021 board was an entirely online affair. Volume Eight of our journal is thus a product of our Zoom meetings and breakout rooms, long emails and GroupMe's, and your individual initiative. Congratulations to all of you, including our 14 graduating seniors.

Here in Fall 2021, a new *JMURJ* Editorial Board has worked to put the finishing touches on Volume Eight. As we've done so, in person for the first time in over a year, we've appreciated again all that our contributors, reviewers, and editors accomplished over the past year, as well as the foundation they built on.

All the best,

The *JMURJ* Editorial Board

