

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to Volume 9 of the *James Madison Undergraduate Research Journal*! Volume 9 contains six pieces from five JMU colleges: CAL, CHBS, COB, CSM, and CVPA. Our journal continues to be an interdisciplinary space that provides a platform for student scholarship from across campus. The breadth of academic disciplines contributes to our international presence. Through nine volumes, *JMURJ* articles have been downloaded in 195 countries around the world.

To our authors, we appreciate the hard work you dedicated throughout the writing and revision process. Volume 9 engages significant social conversations: depictions of colonialism in the arts, caregivers' mental health, same-gender parenting, critical analysis of religious texts, cryptocurrency markets, and human genetic evolution.

Of course, highlighting this broad range of scholarship would not be possible without our faculty reviewers. In Volume 9, we relied on 39 faculty reviewers to assist us throughout the publication process. We appreciate your expertise and encouragement of student scholarship across campus.

The *JMURJ* Editorial Board also deserves a moment of acknowledgment. Over the course of this past year, with the guidance of Managing Editor and sole returner Tori Carpenter, our Editorial Board transformed from a room full of new faces to a team which has dedicated countless hours to screening, copyediting, fact-checking, and design.

And, finally, thank you for reading Volume 9! While you enjoy this volume, we are hard at work with new authors, new pieces, and new reviewers. We cannot wait for you to see what we do next.

The *JMURJ* Editorial Board

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