



What a joy it is to see the second volume of the Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research make it to publication! Some of the best experiences I have had as a faculty member have been in working with students who have their work make it into print, digital or material. I heartily congratulate all of the students for their outstanding efforts from research, to analysis, to writing and, of course, revision. I also congratulate the faculty members who inspired and guided this good work. I take the central element of great colleges to be the relationship between faculty members and students. When that interaction and the intellectual curiosity and hard work of a student produces work of the quality of the essays in this journal, we have

great reason to celebrate.

Looking over the essays in this volume I am struck by the wonderful and rich range of topics. This range moves from an analysis of the Wallace Steven's poem "Esthetique du Mal" to a study that seeks a way to reduce the danger caused by distracted drivers. I'm certain that all of the young scholars would give interesting accounts of how they came to select their topic or project. One of my most cherished experiences with a student scholar was working with a young man who was stunned to learn that there were many states in this country with laws on the books that outlawed mixed race marriages into the 1960s. The Supreme Court struck down these laws in the famous civil rights case, *Loving v. Virginia* in 1967. The student could not believe that this happened as late as 1967 and it set him on a research path about antimiscegenation laws in his own state of Indiana. After many hours in the archives in the library of the Indiana Historical Society the student fell upon handwritten transcripts of late 19th Century debates in the Indiana State Legislature on the "Black Laws" in that state, including an anti-miscegenation law. It was a long and wonderful path that led him to this same point of publication, and I was able to witness his struggle and joy first hand. What a privilege!

I'm certain that each scholar in this volume has an equally wonderful story to tell, characterized by struggle, long hours, false starts, writers block, incredible insight, and great satisfaction. We see the finished product, which is appropriate. But we also know that behind, underneath, and packed into each of these essays is so very, very much more.

Congratulations to the scholars, we salute you!

David Timmerman

Dean of the Faculty
Monmouth College



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Special Thanks To...

The editorial board of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* would like to give special thanks to the faculty and deans of the ACM colleges for encouraging your students to submit to the inaugural issue of our journal. We would also like to thank President Mauri Ditzler, Dean David Timmerman, the Monmouth College Board of Trustees, and our anonymous board of reviewers for providing the resources to make this journal possible. Finally, we would like to thank Monmouth College alumni Caitlin Mehta for designing our cover and logo.

Call For Papers

The Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research would like to invite undergraduate students from any ACM institution to submit manuscripts for our 2013 issue by **January 15th.***

Works may be submitted to:

mjursub@monmouthcollege.edu

Requirements:

- Submissions may be from any discipline as long as they are research based.
- May use MLA, APA, or Chicago style citation
- Accompanying your submission you must provide the following information:
 - ◊ Name
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For questions you may contact us at:

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*MJUR guarantees review for all submissions received by January 15th
MJUR cannot guarantee review for submissions received between January
15th and 31st

MJUR will not accept submissions beyond January 31st

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Lawrence University, 2013

Abigail is a junior Anthropology major who recently returned from Tanzania. She studies at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. She is involved in several environmental clubs at Lawrence: Greenfire, a campus organization that promotes environmental awareness, the Outdoor Recreation Club, and the university garden. She is also an elementary reading tutor. In the future, she hopes to continue learning and to do work that will benefit her community. She would like to thank Professor James Godde, Professor Brenda Jenike, and Professor Carla Daughtry. Additionally, she would like to thank Maggie and Sallee Beneke for their faith in her writing. She would also like to thank her Tanzanian informants, for sharing their stories and insight and allowing her to do this project.

Jacqueline Deskovich

Monmouth College, 2012

Jackie is a senior English and Classics major at Monmouth College who was accepted to the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee as a Masters student in English for the Fall of 2012. While not pursuing academic goals, she is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and a sometimes Fat Acceptance activist. Her eternal gratitude goes to her advisor, Professor Mark Willhardt, for not only reading the countless drafts of this paper sent his way, but also for spending the past four years helping her reach this point. Jackie would also like to thank her parents for listening to her talk about the paradox of roosters feeling pain and not thinking that their daughter had gone insane.

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Juan-Ita Effiom is a Junior at St. Olaf College majoring in sociology/anthropology with a concentration in biomedical studies. Upon graduation, she plans to attend graduate school for Occupational Therapy. She would like to thank Professor Ryan Sheppard for her guidance by teaching her and her colleagues valuable research skills and by guiding them through the development of the research paper. She would like to thank her colleagues as well for collaborating with her in this research. Additionally, her parents, Juan and Ita Effiom, and her family are to thank for their continued support and encouragement in achieving her academic goals.



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Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, 2015

Thomas is a freshman Electrical Engineering major at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. Besides investigating intriguing questions through engineering and science, Thomas avidly pursues creative communication by practicing his trumpet and acting in theatrical productions. Based on positive research experiences, Thomas intends either to embark into an industrial research and development team or to delve into intellectual properties through patent law. Thomas extends his sincerest thanks to Dr. Keith Hoover for all of his help throughout this process since as Newton quipped, "I have seen further only because I am standing on the shoulders of giants."

James Foulkes

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, 2012

James is a senior at Rose-Hulman studying Electrical Engineering with a focus on wireless communication systems and communication networks. Upon graduation he will pursue a graduate degree with the intention of working to develop the future of smart-grid technology in the United States. He would like to thank all of his professors at Rose-Hulman for providing him with a very strong basis of both practical and theoretical knowledge to work from; and specifically, he would like to thank Dr. Hoover for lending so much help on this project in embedded system design and providing help with debugging the system

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Erin is a junior Biology and Environmental Studies double major at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She has research experience in plant breeding, soil microbial ecology, and sustainable agriculture. After graduation, Erin hopes to obtain a Fulbright Scholar Award to conduct research at CIMMYT, the International Maize and Wheat Breeding Center in Mexico City, Mexico. Erin then plans on attending graduate school in order to pursue a career in international sustainable agriculture.

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Anushka Patel is currently a senior at Carleton College in Northfield, MN, where she studies Psychology and Cross-cultural studies. After graduating in June 2012, she plans to pursue full-time research in clinical disorders affecting pediatric populations. Anushka wants to extend her gratitude to Dr. Richard Davidson, in whose lab she was able to conduct cutting-edge neuroimaging research. Additionally, she thanks Frances Haeberli and Bryan Hendricks for their expertise and guidance throughout the process.

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Beloit College, 2011

David Pedigo graduated from Beloit College in Wisconsin in May 2011 with a degree in International Relations. He also studied abroad in Ecuador and presented a symposium about his research there after returning to Beloit. He is currently working as an overseas journalist for The Santiago Times in Chile, and has also been published by the World Policy Institute. He would like to send a special thanks to his professors Beatrice McKenzie, Beth Dougherty, and Pablo Toral (who also sponsored and helped him write his submission) for sharing their knowledge, wisdom, and experience with him unconditionally.

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Phoua Xiong is a senior at St. Olaf College majoring in sociology/anthropology with concentrations in Asian Studies and Family Studies. After graduating in May, she will be attending the University of Minnesota to complete her Master's in Family Social Science. She would like to work with families, specifically within the Asian community. She would like to thank Professor Ryan Sheppard for her guidance and insight throughout the research.



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Colleen Zumpf is a senior environmental science major and biology minor at Monmouth College. She is a member of the National Biological Society and Blue Key Honors Society. Her future plan after graduation is not currently set, but hopes to pursue a career that combines many of her interests. She would like to thank her advisor Tim Tibbetts for helping design the experiment and guidance throughout.

About the Editors...



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Alex Holt is a senior, majoring in English with a minor in classics. In addition to working with the MJUR, Alex serves as the President of the student association, and as a Hall Director. He also recently completed his honors thesis on “The *Mediated Self*,” a theoretical approach to the self as it is displayed and changed through social media. Alex hopes to attend law school in the fall. Currently, Alex is working on his senior thesis, discussing the language of appropriation in Walt Whitman’s “Song of Myself.”

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Jessica is a junior biopsychology major from Peoria, Illinois. She is minoring in sociology and anthropology. Her academic interests include neurological disorders and psychopharmacology. Jessica is a member of the Monmouth College varsity volleyball team and is also involved in Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology, Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, and Blue Key Honor Society. She hopes to attend graduate school to pursue a career in neurological research.

Ian Smith

Ian is a senior at Monmouth College, and came to the school in 2008 from Victoria, IL. He is majoring in classics and religious studies, but also enjoys taking classes on American history. While he has been at Monmouth, Ian joined the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and helped start the student ministry group, Ignite. During his free time, Ian likes to play his guitar with Legacy23, as well as lift and run. After Monmouth, Ian hopes to attend seminary, eventually pastoring his own church.

About the Editors...



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