

the midwest journal of undergraduate research



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Dear Reader,

“Confusing, twisted, and often-conflicting” sensibilities. The possibility of a “free irrationality” that reflects full human agency. The importance of imagination, emerging patterns, and evidence that contradicts conventional understanding. These kinds of questions, hypotheses, and methods power the articles in



this volume. Each models liberal inquiry in its substance, provocative stance, and grappling with complexity.

We should celebrate the authors of each of these pieces for succeeding at the long, hard work of conceptualizing and executing a compelling project, gaining feedback, and re-thinking and re-doing their work in light of those suggestions and new evidence. No matter what the project, it required throughout imagination, analysis of evidence, the search for patterns, confusing sensibilities, and perhaps even a bit of “free irrationality.”

And such irrationality can carry with it real reward and sense of accomplishment. These student authors have produced new knowledge. That feat should not be underestimated; nor should the process by which that knowledge has been produced. When we see “independent research,” a finished product, it’s too easy to see it as the product of lone scholars, toiling in isolation in the library or lab, erudite thoughts springing full-grown from their minds. We should know better. What appears in this volume inevitably reflects collaborative work – fed by class readings and discussion, late night bull sessions with friends, insight from professors and peers on multiple drafts.

Dana, Winona, Chase, Alexandra, Minji, Will, Luisa, and Carmen are likely always to remember seminal aspects of the research they present here. I’m going to take a gamble, though, and suggest that what will have more enduring impact in their lives and others’ around them are the qualities and habits of mind it shaped. In the work leading up to this publication, all of these authors learned to discern worthwhile questions; someone signaled to them that they had succeeded in doing so and gave them the skills and confidence to proceed. In other words, they were mentored. Through that mentorship and their own gumption, these students learned to navigate through multiple, confusing threads of inquiry and evidence with firmness while remaining open to the

possibility of new directions, to put in legwork and seat time while keeping their imaginations alive. These desirable practices and attributes mark not just fine academic scholars but liberally educated individuals more generally – those we hope will contribute to our public discourse, educate our children, and be charged with ethical decision-making across a broad swathe of roles and professions, to name just a few of the dimensions in which those habits of mind matter.

Let us not lose sight as well of the excellent work of the editors of this journal and what they have gained through that work. In many ways, Mackenzie Mahler, Carly Abbott, Jade Luthy, Heather Malone, Libby Meyer, Drake Decker, Corbin Beaström, and Rachel Witzig have encountered an essential dimension of the liberal arts: They have been asked to do a job they are not, at first blush, qualified to do – that is, judge the work of authors whose knowledge of a particular subject substantially outstrips their own. In taking on this task, they needed to learn about new fields, to render value judgments, and to make a case for those judgments. They were then called to see anew based on the perspectives of others who have also learned about new fields and made judgments; they came to cooperate and compromise, not just on questions of quality and value but also on the nature of collections, balance, synthesis, coherence. This editorial board has made a whole from a wide range of disparate parts. In the process they have learned hard, valuable lessons about teamwork in intellectual endeavors. If they're like any other team, they've probably also learned a bit about how to get things done and competing responsibilities, something that calls for a mysterious combination of generosity of spirit, hard-nosed pragmatism, and knowing one's own and one another's limits. Through all of this, they produced a volume that each and all of them own.

For everyone reading this foreword (and I suspect at this point it's a valued few), I invite you to think about your own education, what you remember most from it, and where you felt you gained the most. I'll venture that you'll see evidence of it in these pages and in all that went into producing it. Congratulations and admiration are due to Monmouth College, the mentors of these student writers, and most especially to the faculty advisors for the Journal – Alexandra Bomphray, Judi Kessler, Lars Jorgen Kristiansen, Ashwani Kumar, Anne Mamary, Kevin Roberts, Tim Stiles, and Fred Witzig-- for their commitment to this worthwhile endeavor and for the respect they show their students by challenging them. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Ann Davies
Provost and Dean, Beloit 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 fourth issue of our journal. We would also like to thank President Clarence Wyatt, Dean David Timmerman, the Monmouth College Board of Trustees, and our anonymous reviewers for providing the resources to make this journal possible. Finally, we would like to thank Monmouth College alumna Caitlin Mehta for designing our cover and logo.



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Call For Papers

The editors of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* invites undergraduate students from any college or university to submit manuscripts from any discipline to be considered for publication in our journal's sixth issue (2016).

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.
- 300-word abstract, 5-40 pages in length, 12 pt Times New Roman or Calibri font, double spaced
- Submit as a single Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) unless the text of your manuscript requires a different format (such as extension mathematical notation, tables, or figures).
- Accompanying your submission you must provide the following information:
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Deadlines:

Manuscripts submitted by January 15th, 2016 are guaranteed review for inclusion in the 2015-2016 issue. As a journal dedicated to undergraduate scholarship, the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* only accepts submissions from current or recent undergraduate students. To qualify, a submission must be received by the submission deadline (Jan. 15) following the conferral of the author's first bachelors degree.

Call For Papers

Statement of Originality of Manuscripts

The Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research requires all submissions to adhere to the following statement on originality of submissions.

“Submission guidelines of all academic journals require that authors vouch for the originality of their work and that the manuscript is not currently under review by any other publication. While the lengthy review and publication cycle of an academic journal may be frustrating, offering a manuscript to one journal at a time is compulsory. Authors will also need to guarantee to the editor that the copyright for the material is held by no other entity.” — Henscheid, Jean and Jennifer Keup. *Crafting and Conducting Research on Student Transitions*. Columbia, SC: National Resource Center for The First Year Experience & Students in Transition, 2011. Print. (page 96).

For questions you may contact us at:

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Contents...



Illustrated Everyman: Sherlock Holmes and Professional Class Identity in the Strand Magazine

Dana Sly
Grinnell College, 2015..... 15

School Choice as a Method of Reducing the Achievement Gap: Comparing the Effectiveness of Desegregation Programs and Charter Schools

Winona Weindling
Carleton College, 2014..... 47

The Poetic Mind: Blake, Wordsworth and Coleridge on the Imagination

Alexandra Kulik
Lake Forest College, 2015..... 81

Arun Kolatkar and Narrating the Bilingual Position

Chase Mowery
Monmouth College, 2014..... 94

“Algo es Algo”: Poverty Fosters Local Support for Medical Volunteering in Guatemala

Luisa Amelia Rodríguez
Carleton College, 2016..... 107

Sacred Groves and the “Jungle Whitefolks Planted”: The Dynamic Symbolism of Trees in Beloved

William J. Terrill,
Monmouth College, 2014..... 126

Free Irrationality in Moral Choices

Minji Jang
Carleton College, 2015..... 147

“And What Say the Living?”: An Examination of Public Discussion of Anatomical Dissection Prior to the Doctors’ Riot of 1788

Carmen Niemeyer
Lycoming College, 2014..... 161

About the Authors...



Dana Sly

Grinnell College, 2015

Dana is from Sioux City, Iowa. She is in her final year at Grinnell College, majoring in History and Art History. She completed "Illustrated Everyman: Sherlock Holmes and Professional Class Identity in the Strand Magazine" in 2012 when she was a fellow at the Associated Colleges of the Midwest Newberry Undergraduate Seminar in the Humanities.

Winona Weindling

Carleton College, 2014

Winona graduated from Carleton College in June 2014 with a degree in Political Science and Educational Studies. While at Carleton she tutored elementary school students, organized co-curricular service opportunities, and led a self-esteem building group for middle school girls. Her research interests include school choice, school desegregation, early childhood education, and school discipline policies. Winona is currently working with Match Corps, tutoring third and fourth grade students at a charter school in Boston, as well as developing curriculum and analyzing student progress data. She would like to thank Professor Rich Keiser for his feedback on her paper and his support throughout her time at Carleton.

Alexandra Kulik

Lake Forest College, 2015

Alexandra is a senior Philosophy and English Literature major at Lake Forest College. She plans to take some time off, before applying to a PhD program in Comparative Literature, to explore foreign lands, learn new things, and gain unforgettable experiences. She would like to take this opportunity to give a sincere thank you to all the wonderful professors at Lake Forest for sharing their knowledge every day and expanding hers, and a special thank you to Professor Dustin Mengelkoch for his continued faith, encouragement, and support in her abilities as a writer, thinker, and person.

Chase Mowery

Monmouth College, 2014

Chase Mowery graduated from Monmouth College in 2014 with a major in English and a minor in History. While at Monmouth College, Chase was an editor for the school's newspaper, *The Courier*, a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, and a student-reviewer for this journal. Chase would like to acknowledge Dr. Raj Rao, his advisor for the paper. Dr. Rao's knowledge of the Indian-English literary landscape was invaluable. Chase would also like to thank Professors Fred Witzig and Mark Willhardt for their unrelenting belief and confidence in him throughout his undergraduate career.

Luisa Rodríguez

Carleton College, 2016

Luisa is a junior Anthropology major at Carleton College. In addition to being a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, she is a social justice activist and musician. Luisa would especially like to thank Professor Jay Levi, Professor Constanza Ocampo-Raeder and Professor William North for their ongoing mentorship and guidance. Additionally, she is grateful to the Carleton Sociology and Anthropology department for its role in shaping her as a scholar, as well as for its continued encouragement and support. Luisa hopes to earn a PhD in Anthropology, specializing in international development and philanthropy. After completing her graduate work, she hopes to pursue a career as professor while maintaining an ongoing commitment to civic engagement.

Will Terrill

Monmouth College, 2014

Will Terrill graduated from Monmouth College in the spring of 2014 with a degree in English. While at Monmouth, Will worked at the Monmouth College Educational Garden, co-founded the Monmouth College Garden House, and edited for the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research*. As a senior Will was named the Lincoln Laureate of the class of 2014. Considerable thanks go to the professors who guided him throughout his undergraduate career, especially to Professor Craig Watson and Professor Mark Willhardt of the English Department, without whom this paper would be nothing more than a five-page book report. Will Terrill continues to write poetry, read literature, and pursue a land-based community in Macomb, Illinois.

Minji Jang

Carleton College, 2015

Minji Jang is a senior philosophy major at Carleton College and will begin doctoral studies at UNC Chapel Hill in Fall 2015. Her current research interests are ethics, metaethics and moral psychology, and she aspires to explore other fields of philosophy for the next five years, as well. She expresses her deepest gratitude to the Carleton philosophy department, especially her senior thesis advisor Professor Daniel Groll, as well as Professor Sarah Jansen, Professor Jason Decker and Professor Anna Moltchanova, for their guidance in research, constant inspiration and support throughout her undergraduate career. She also thanks her parents, friends, and the Director of the Carleton Writing Center, Ms Renata Fitzpatrick, for their endless support and encouragement.

Carmen Niemeyer

Lycoming College, 2014

Carmen graduated Summa Cum Laude in May 2014 from Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and History. While at school she participated in and captained the Women's Cross Country team, played percussion in the Lycoming College Concert Band, was a Resident Assistant, and led the Campus Girl Scouts. Carmen is an inducted member of Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Alpha Theta, and Beta Beta Beta honor societies. She plans to pursue master's degrees in History and Information and Library Science in the coming years. Carmen extends her sincerest gratitude to her project advisor, Dr. Christopher Pearl, for his guidance and indispensable queries throughout the research process. She would also like to express appreciation to the current and recently former professors of the Lycoming College History Department for cultivating her zeal for the study of history and her ever-developing research and writing skills.

About the Editors...



Carly Abbott

Carly is a senior psychology major and sociology minor from Manito, Illinois. This is her second year working with the MJUR. She is a member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women and several honor societies, including Blue Key, Mortar Board, and Psi Chi. Carly has held various learning support and leadership positions at Monmouth College, including president of the Student Alumni Association, sociology-anthropology department tutor, introductory statistics tutor, and research mentor for the sociology-anthropology department during the Summer Opportunities for Intellectual Activities (SOIA) program. Carly's research interests include symbolic interaction, interpersonal relationships, counseling styles, therapeutic change, the self, perceptions, and culture and diversity. She recently studied abroad in Scotland during the fall 2014 semester. After graduation, Carly plans to pursue graduate studies in social psychology and counseling.

Corbin Beastrom

Corbin is a senior Political Science major and Philosophy minor from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In addition to his studies and the *MJUR*, Corbin was involved in student government, the Washington Semester Program, and AmeriCorps. He would like to thank his faculty mentors for challenging him inside the classroom and for their support outside of it. After Monmouth College, Corbin will attend graduate school, pursue a public service career, and continue to begin each day with a cup of black coffee.

Drake Decker

Drake is a junior Economics and Business Management double major from Muscatine, Iowa. He participates in several honor societies and is the president of the Business and Economics Club. He is also a member of the fighting scots golf team. Much of his free time is spent on the links. Drake is hoping to pursue a career in marketing following graduation.

Jade Luthy

Jade is a junior English major with a Physics minor from Cuba, Illinois. She is the Treasurer of Blue Key Honor Society and the Historian of Sigma Tau Delta. Jade also works as a writing tutor and plans to be an Orientation Leader for her third and final year in fall 2015. She enjoys reading novels and mindlessly browsing the internet in her spare time. Jade plans to pursue a career in technical writing or law upon graduation.

Mackenzie Mahler

Mackenzie is a senior Psychology and Communication studies major from Bourbonnais, Illinois. She is involved in several organizations on campus such as Alpha Xi Delta's women's fraternity, the student newspaper, Mortar Board Honor Society, and Order of Omega. In the fall, she will be attending Illinois State University to pursue a Master's in Communication Studies. Her research interests are rhetorical analysis and criticism with a focus on feminist and queer theory. She hopes to become a professor at a small college.

Heather Malone

Heather Malone is a senior Chemistry major from Princeton, Illinois. Besides the *MJUR*, she has had several on campus jobs including library assistant, chemistry tutor, supplemental instruction leader for chemistry, and resident assistant. Heather is also actively involved in the American Chemical Society on campus. Her research interests include investigating the nanoscale, whether it is electronics, medicine, or biotechnology. After graduating from Monmouth, Heather hopes to pursue her research interests in graduate school to obtain a doctorate in Chemistry.

Libby Meyer

Libby is a senior Communication Studies and Political Science double major from East Lansing, Michigan. She is a member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women, Alpha Lambda Delta, Pi Sigma Alpha, Lambda Pi Eta and Order of Omega. In addition to her membership in these organizations, Libby is also the News Editor for Monmouth College's newspaper *The Courier* and a Scot Ambassador. After graduation Libby will return to Michigan to work at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce in Michigan's capital city.

Rachel Witzig

Rachel is a sophomore English major with a passion for creative writing and classic literature. A member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, she shares her love for writing by tutoring students at Monmouth's Writing Center. She is a student leader at Ignite, one of Monmouth's Christian organizations, and she enjoys anything involving photography, travel, and Doctor Who. After graduation, Rachel hopes to pursue an MFA in Creative Writing.