

*the midwest journal of undergraduate research*

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From the *MJUR* faculty advisors to *MJUR* readers:  
Some reflections upon the 6<sup>th</sup> year of publication.

Seven years ago, in 2009, the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* was born as a special faculty initiative; six years ago, in 2010, we convened a group of faculty advisors, hired the first board of student editors, and dispatched the first “call for papers”; five years ago, in 2011, the first issue of *MJUR* was published. Today, as we prepare to launch the 6<sup>th</sup> issue of *MJUR*, we can’t help but reflect back on how far we have traveled since 2009.

*MJUR* has grown in staff (editors and faculty advisors), in submissions, and in reach. The journal currently has 9 student editors, 10 faculty advisors, and more than 35 faculty referees on multiple college and university campuses who have reviewed manuscripts for *MJUR* over the past year. Our reach has grown, as well, from initially receiving manuscripts mostly from Midwestern schools, to now reviewing a much larger number of submissions from colleges and universities throughout the United States, as well as from outside the country.

What has not changed is the quality of scholarship, from the first 2011 issue - which included, among the seven papers, an analysis of the “many faces of Alexander the Great” and research that explored “gay men’s motivations for having children” - to this issue, with articles from exceptional undergraduate scholars in Political Science, Classics, Kinesiology, Sociology, Art History, Communications, and Psychology. We take this opportunity to acknowledge all the outstanding scholars who dedicated their time, talent, knowledge, and efforts to produce the outstanding research and analysis represented in the *MJUR* volumes.

We also express heartfelt thanks to the student editorial board, whose members rotate in and out as seniors graduate and first-year students matriculate, but whose hard work and expertise remain constant and contribute significantly to the quality of the journal.

We are grateful to all the faculty reviewers at Monmouth College and throughout the country who have given their good will, time, and expertise to evaluating papers representing a wide array of disciplines, research methods, and analytical approaches, and to producing detailed reviews that are of inestimable value to the editors, as well as to the authors.

Finally, we express our sincere gratitude to Monmouth College for providing a home for *MJUR* and for supporting the journal with both financial and human resources. Its strong advocacy on behalf of the journal is a reflection of Monmouth College's strong commitment to experiential learning and its endeavor to provide mentored student research opportunities across the disciplines.

As we begin preparing for the next issue of *MJUR*, we also look forward to the April 2017 Undergraduate Research Conference, co-sponsored by *MJUR* and Monmouth College, at which we hope to see student scholars, along with their faculty mentors, from a wide variety of colleges and universities.

In the meantime, welcome to the 2016 edition of *MJUR*, where you will find a timely application of political theory to current international conflicts; a rhetorical analysis of one of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century's most influential Eastern European leaders; and an interdisciplinary study of the literary corpus of the ancient Roman orator and philosopher Cicero. Two undergraduate scientists present their findings regarding athletic performance; another, the results of a qualitative study of modern perceptions and constructions of family; and an art historian reflects critically on the uses (and abuses) of the legendary Jewish heroine, Judith, from the medieval period to the era of Nazi Germany. Finally, two psychology majors help us think about the "third places" we create for social interaction. We congratulate these undergraduate scholars for their fine submissions and their persistence during the process of revision and editing.

Thank you for your support of these scholars and of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

Best wishes from the faculty advisors,

Marsha Dopheide, Judi Kessler, Ashwani Kumar, Anne Mamary, Kevin Roberts, Emily Rollie, Brad Rowe, Hannah Schell, Tim Stiles, and Fred Witzig

Friends:

My wife, Lobie, and I are proud of the accomplishments of all our students and the many ways in which they distinguish themselves. We are especially proud of the work that you currently hold in your hands. The *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research*, published at Monmouth College, is a student-directed publication that attracts outstanding scholarly work by undergraduates from across the nation.



At Monmouth College, we talk not of the “liberal arts,” but rather of the “liberating arts.” This process of freeing young minds to explore the richness of all that humanity has said and done, to use that exploration to learn more about themselves, and to direct that exploration to creating positive change for themselves and others is at the heart of the Monmouth College Experience. Indeed, it is at the heart of what it means to be human.

The Monmouth College students who lead the journal, and the students whose research is contained in this issue, are powerful examples of the liberating arts. Their intellectual curiosity, their grace of thought and expression, and their willingness to present their work for the judgment of others make me hopeful. It is people with these attributes who will lead us to confront challenges and seize opportunities, those now before us and those yet to come. I congratulate everyone who has made this outstanding work possible.

With best wishes for enjoyable and enlightening reading,

Clarence R. Wyatt

President

Monmouth College

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### ***Special Thanks...***

The editorial board of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* extends a special thanks to the faculty and deans of the ACM colleges for encouraging students to submit to the sixth 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.

The publication of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* is made possible through generous gifts from:

Robert L. Best '62

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Dee Ann Shuff '63

and

Louise C. (Pyle) Ruble '37

Thank you all for your contributions.

## **Save the Date!**

Students from all colleges and universities are invited to attend the

### **April 2017 Undergraduate Research Conference**

co-sponsored by

#### ***MJUR* (Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research) & Monmouth College**

April 21 and 22, 2017

Campus of Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois

Events to be featured:

Student Presentations  
Student Poster Sessions  
Keynote Speaker

...As well as a special MJUR Fall 2017 "Conference Proceedings" issue.

Watch for more info at this website in coming months:

<http://research.monm.edu/mjur/>

For more information, please contact: [mjur@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:mjur@monmouthcollege.edu)

## Call For Papers

The editors of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* invite undergraduate students from any college or university to submit manuscripts from any discipline to be considered for publication in our journal's seventh issue (2017).

Works may be submitted to:

**[mjursub@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:mjursub@monmouthcollege.edu)**

### Requirements:

- Abstract of no more than 200 words
- 5-35 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).
- If your manuscript includes figures or images, include a list of figures and identify the file format (e.g., JPEG, TIFF, PDF) of any graphics and images submitted. Please note that MJUR is printed in grayscale.
- May use MLA, APA, or Chicago Style.
- Accompanying your submission you must provide the following information:
  - ◊ Name
  - ◊ School/Graduating Class
  - ◊ Major
  - ◊ Discipline of paper
  - ◊ Citation style used
  - ◊ Daytime Phone Number
  - ◊ Email Address
  - ◊ Mailing Address
  - ◊ The name and contact information of a sponsoring professor
- Research involving human subjects requires documentation of Institutional Review Board approval or exemption.



**Deadlines:**

Manuscripts submitted by January 15th, 2017 are guaranteed review for inclusion in the 2016-2017 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 bachelor's degree.

**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:

**[mjur@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:mjur@monmouthcollege.edu)**

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## *About the Authors...*

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### **Emily Royer**

*Macalester College, 2017*

Emily Royer is a junior at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has participated in the Macalester Martial Arts Club, the Macalester Wind Ensemble, and the Hispanic Studies Department's tutoring program. In 2015, she spent a semester abroad in the Czech Republic and is currently interning for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. After graduating from Macalester, she hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in Political Science or Philosophy. Emily would like to thank Dr. Zornitsa Keremidchieva for her incredible support, humor, and insight. Emily would also like to thank the Macalester Political Science Department, and her fellow Researching Political Communication classmates.

### **Haley Hicks**

*Drake University, 2015*

Haley Hicks graduated with honors from Drake University in May, 2015, earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a concentration in leadership education and development. While at Drake, she participated in club volleyball, volunteered in the athletic training room, and refereed various intramural sports. Haley currently coaches men's and women's high school volleyball. She would like to thank Dr. Senchina for his dedication, encouragement, and unwavering support.

### **Melissa Parks**

*Drake University, 2015*

Melissa Parks graduated summa cum laude from Drake University in May, 2015, with a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences. While there, she ran cross country and track for the Bulldogs with her twin sister, interned at a pediatric therapy clinic, went on mission to St. Lucia, and assisted with research in the fields of kinesiology, biomechanics, and exercise physiology. She is currently in her first year at the University of Nebraska Medical Center working toward a Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree. Melissa would like to thank Dr. Senchina for all of his support and knowledgeable input during her four-year undergraduate research experience.

## **Emma Vanderpool**

*Monmouth College, 2017*

Emma Vanderpool is a junior Latin and History major at Monmouth College, and she plans to go on to graduate school in Classical Studies. This project began as part of a 2013 summer research project, supervised by Dr. Nick Dobson and Dr. Logan Mayfield. Her sincerest thanks are due to Dr. Thomas J. Sienkewicz and Dr. Mayfield, the primary advisors in this endeavor, as well as to Dr. Christine Myers and Dr. Kristian Lorenzo for their diligent proofreading. Further thanks are due to Dr. Kathleen Coleman (Harvard University) for her comments on an earlier version of this paper. She is eternally grateful to Matt Albert (Western High School, NV) and Matthew Katsenes (Moultonborough Academy, NH) for their continued guidance and support.

## **Elliott Averett**

*Macalester College, 2015*

Elliott Averett graduated from Macalester College in May of 2015, where he majored in Political Science and Arabic (Classical Languages) and minored in Computer Science and Middle Eastern Studies/Islamic Civilization. While at Macalester, he competed on the college's mock trial team, and served on the leadership board of the college's Pi Sigma Alpha chapter. He also served as co-president of Macalester Firearms Education and Safety, a group dedicated to teaching college students about safe firearm handling. He owes a considerable debt of gratitude to Dr. Julie Dolan, Dr. Andrew Latham, and Dr. David Blaney of the Macalester College Political Science Department, all of whom helped make the work presented in this journal possible and who guided him throughout his undergraduate career. Elliott currently resides in Seattle, Washington.

## **Emily Scotto**

*Carleton College, 2015*

Emily Scotto graduated from Carleton College in 2015 with a degree in Sociology and Anthropology and a concentration in Women's and Gender Studies. While at Carleton, Emily worked as a peer educator at Carleton's Gender and Sexuality Center, and served as a mentor to middle school girls. Her research interests include non-normative family structures, American kinship, and community and network resiliency. She would like to thank Professor Liz Raleigh and Professor Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg for their exceptional guidance and encouragement throughout her time at Carleton. Emily currently works as a Weitz Family Fellow at the Women's Fund of Omaha, assisting in community-based research analysis to inform clients about service provision and funding in the Omaha community.

## **Savannah Dearhamer**

*Coe College, 2016*

Savannah Dearhamer is a senior undergraduate student at Coe College (Cedar Rapids, IA), double majoring in Art History and Business Administration, with a minor in Painting. In the past two years she has interned with the Minneapolis Institute of Art as well as the Des Moines Art Center. Her college career has led her to study art history in Paris and apprentice under an art restorer in Florence, Italy. Currently, Savannah works with Coe's Permanent Art Collection while also managing the Student Art Gallery. After graduation, Savannah plans to hone her museum and gallery skills while applying to graduate schools.

## **Stephanie Saey**

*Monmouth College, 2018*

Stephanie Saey is a sophomore Biochemistry and Biospsychology double major at Monmouth College. She is involved in Women's Cross Country, Pi Beta Phi Women's Fraternity, and the American Chemical Society, and is a Scot's Ambassador—an individual who guides visitors on tours of the Monmouth College Campus. After college, Stephanie aspires to earn a Ph.D. in Neuroscience.

## **Kelci Foss**

*Monmouth College, 2018*

Kelci Foss is a sophomore Biopsychology major at Monmouth College. She is a member of the Monmouth College Cross Country and Track team, Kappa Kappa Gamma Women's Fraternity, and Alpha Lambda Delta, and is a Scot's Ambassador, who guides visitors to Monmouth College on tours of the campus. Kelci hopes to attend graduate school in order to pursue her passion of research specifically in traumatic brain injuries.

## *About the Editors...*

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### **Marian Hjelmgren**

Marian is a senior English major with a Classics minor from Northlake, Illinois. She is Vice President of Sigma Tau Delta, President of the Wind Ensemble, and a Drum Major in the Fighting Scots Marching Band. Marian works as a writing tutor on campus, as well. She intends to pursue a career in editorial work upon graduation. In between rehearsals and writing papers, Marian enjoys curling up with Harry Potter, some tea, and Netflix.

### **Sarah Lang**

Sarah is a junior biochemistry major from Peoria, Illinois. In addition to her job as Publications Editor for *MJUR*, she has worked as a teacher's assistant, a supplemental instructor for the biology general education class, and a research mentor for Monmouth College's 3-week summer research program. She is also a member of the Beta Beta Beta Honor Society and of Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity. Her hobbies outside of studying include hiking, swimming, and petting dogs. She hopes to pursue her nursing masters degree after graduating from Monmouth College.

### **Jade Luthy**

Jade is a senior English major with a Physics minor from Cuba, Illinois. She is a member of Mortar Board, Treasurer of Blue Key National Honors Society, Treasurer of Sigma Tau Delta and a member of various other clubs at Monmouth College. Jade has been a Monmouth College Orientation Leader for three consecutive years and also works as a writing tutor and a Subway Sandwich Artist. After Monmouth college, Jade plans to go into the workforce and eventually pursue a career in legal writing, technical writing, or grant writing.

### **Carlin Reinig**

Carlin, '18, is a philosophy major from Hamilton, Illinois. In addition to *MJUR*, he is involved with student government. He also works for the Career Center on campus. Carlin plans on attending graduate school upon completing his undergraduate studies at Monmouth.

### **Anna Schnerre**

Anna is a senior psychology major from Moline, Illinois. Outside of *MJUR*, she works as the psychology tutor and a teaching assistant for various psychology labs. She is also the president of the Psi Chi Honor Society. She recently studied abroad in Ireland during the fall 2015 semester and cannot wait to continue exploring the world. After graduation she plans to attend Western Carolina University to get her M.A. in psychology.

## Sara Stalter

Sara is a senior English major from Bloomington, Illinois. In addition to her studies and holding the Secretary and Treasurer position of the *MJUR*, she is also a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society and the Blue Key Honor Society. Sara enjoys reading short stories and novels, especially Toni Morrison novels, and has a passion and love for dogs, children, and education. After graduating from Monmouth College, she hopes to pursue a career in secondary education, teaching English to high school students.

## Riley Van Velsor

Riley is a junior Biopsychology major and Chemistry minor from Galesburg, Illinois. In addition to his studies and *MJUR*, Riley is a member of the Fighting Scots golf team and the Pre-Health Society. His research interests include synaptic plasticity, enzyme kinetics, epigenetics, biomimicry, and neurodegenerative disorders. In his free time, he enjoys playing guitar, exercising, and writing. After Monmouth College, Riley hopes to pursue a career in medicine.

## Isaac Willis

Isaac is an English and philosophy double major at Monmouth. His areas of study include Animal Ethics and the way narratives shape the ways we interact with marginalized bodies, people groups, and environmental zones. Isaac plans to teach high school English when he graduates in order to spread his love of literature and inform that words have power to change the world.

## Haley Willits

Haley Willits is a sophomore English major from Gladstone, Illinois. She is involved in a number of campus organizations including the bagpipe band, Crimson Masque, and Alpha Lambda Delta. She works as a manager in the Stockdale Office and volunteers as an Orientation Leader. After graduating, Haley hopes to teach English at a high school level or continue editing.

## Rachel Witzig

As a junior studying English, Rachel Witzig has a passion for creative writing and classic literature. A member of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, she shares her love for writing by tutoring students at Monmouth's Writing Center and by working with Monmouth College's creative magazine, *The Coil*. She is also a student leader at Ignite, one of Monmouth's Christian Organizations, and she enjoys anything involving photography, travel, and *Doctor Who*. After graduation, Rachel will earn an M.F.A. in creative writing and return to college--this time, as a professor.