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Dear Reader,

You hold in your hands the 13th edition of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research*. While it may feel slight in size, it is a tremendous thing. In these pages you find the glittering intelligence of young scholars, as well as the diligence and hard work of student editors who carefully selected and prepared the essays for publication. That they accomplished this during a global pandemic, a time of great fear, stress, and social upheaval, makes it even more extraordinary.



The work here is timely, substantive, and rich in its variety. This edition includes research on the stress responses of psychopaths; the political views of supporters of Bernie Sanders during the 2016 Democratic primary; the poetic activism of literary critic Gwendolyn Brooks; the economic and political aspects of legislative architecture; the significance of *The Jardin des Plantes Ménagerie*, a zoo founded during the French Revolution; and the relationship between humans and monsters in popular dark fantasy manga. With close attention to how human psychology, culture, power and imagination intersect, these essays exemplify the kind of careful, multi-disciplinary analysis that a solid liberal arts education can yield and the kind of thinking that our world, with its many wicked problems, requires.

I was fortunate to serve on the faculty advisory board for the first edition of *MJUR* in 2010–2011 and subsequent years, and while my contributions to the project in its nascent form were relatively paltry in comparison to other colleagues, I remember the immense sense of satisfaction and pride when the printed copies arrived, and we held them in our hands. That precise feeling recalls a line from a poem by Marge Piercy: “the thing worth doing well done has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.” Congratulations to the students whose research is showcased in this edition; to the students at Monmouth College on the student editorial board; and to the students and faculty colleagues who have been a part of this ambitious endeavor for a dozen years.

Hannah Schell

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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 this issue of our journal. We would also like to thank President Clarence Wyatt, Dean Mark Willhardt, 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 Dodge (2011) for designing our logo.

Call for Papers

The editors of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* invite undergraduate students at any college or university to submit manuscripts from any discipline to be considered for publication in our journal's fourteenth issue (2023).

Works may be submitted at:

<http://research.monm.edu/mjur/call-for-papers/#submission-form>

Requirements

- Abstract of no more than 200 words
- 5–35 pages in length
- 12pt Times New Roman or Calibri font, double spaced
- Name at front of manuscript only—no header
- Sequential page numbers required on all pages
- No track changes (mark-ups)
- Submit as a single Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) file unless the text of your manuscript requires a different format (such as extensive 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
- Submissions may be from any discipline as long as they are research based
- May use MLA, APA, or Chicago Style
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 - Name
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 - The name and contact information of a sponsoring professor
- Research involving human subjects requires documentation of Institutional Review Board approval or exemption.

Deadlines

The submission deadline for the 2023 issue is January 15, 2023. Submissions received after this date will be reviewed for publication consideration in the 2024 issue.

Submission Policy

As a journal dedicated to undergraduate scholarship, the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* only accepts submissions from current or recent undergraduate students (see below for “authorship exceptions”). For recent graduates, your submission must be received within 8 months of conferral of your first undergraduate degree.

Manuscripts that have been published or have been accepted for publication elsewhere, or are under review with another publication, are not eligible for review or publication.

“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 (96).

Authorship Exceptions

We understand that some faculty wish to include themselves as co-author on student projects, especially if the student’s independent work was generated from a larger project that originated with the faculty advisor. In disciplines where the practice of including the faculty advisor as co-author is customary, we will accept the faculty recognized as such. The author must provide written permission of acknowledgement from those faculty advisors being recognized as contributors or co-authors in the manuscript.

Acknowledgments

In instances where students wish to acknowledge a faculty advisor, they may do so by prominently recognizing the faculty advisor as a contributor at the bottom of the first page of the manuscript in both the online and hard copy published versions. Here, the faculty advisor’s contribution may be specified.

For questions you may contact us at:

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About the Editors ...

Addison Cox

Addi is an English major from Morton, Illinois, and is in the class of 2023. In addition to her *MJUR* responsibilities, she serves as the Vice President of Alpha Lambda Delta, Co-Vice President of Sigma Tau Delta, and is involved in Stockdale Fellows, Residence Life, and the Monmouth College Track and Field team. Her favorite Monmouth College experience is serving as a first-year mentor and being able to welcome in, and connect with, the incoming generations of students. Addi plans to continue her education in graduate school.

Shay Hafner

Shay is in the class of 2023 and is a double major in political science and data science from Sterling, Illinois. He serves as the President of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, the Vice President of the Blue Key honor society, a resident assistant in Winbigler Hall, the 2021–2022 Newman Civic Fellow for Monmouth, and a member of Mortar Board and Stockdale Fellows. Shay has also been an *MJUR* editor for three years and plans to pursue a PhD in political science.

Tyler Houck

Tyler is from Park Ridge, Illinois, and is a member of the class of 2024. He is studying business administration and accounting. This is his second year serving as an editor for *MJUR*. Tyler is a member of the baseball team, a Stockdale Fellow, and President of the Business, Economics, Accounting, and Marketing Club. He enjoys participating in Monmouth extra-curriculars and being a part of a variety of campus communities. After graduation, Tyler hopes to work in Chicago, Illinois, and pursue a career in business.

Talia Long

Talia is in the class of 2023 and is a biochemistry and physics double major from Troy, Missouri. In addition to working with *MJUR* for three years, she is a part of Stockdale Fellows, American Chemical Society, Alpha Lambda Delta, Alpha Xi Delta sorority, and worked in the Doc Kieft Summer Research Program. After Monmouth College, Talia plans to go to graduate school to pursue a PhD in biochemistry or physics.

Grant Miller

Grant is in the class of 2022 and is from Aurora, Colorado. He is double majoring in mathematics and computer science. In addition to being on the *MJUR* staff for four years, Grant is a part of Chorale, Stockdale Fellows, Blue Key Honor Society, and Alpha Lambda Delta. Traveling to Memphis, Tennessee, with the Stockdale Fellows group is his most memorable experience at Monmouth. Grant is still exploring opportunities for his career after graduation but is looking forward to a career in programming and software development.

Grace Simpson

Grace is a member of the class of 2023 and is an environmental studies and sustainability major with minors in biology and global food security. She is from Metamora, Illinois. On campus, Grace is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, Stockdale Fellows, Alpha Lambda Delta, Mortar Board, and Order of Omega. She is also a writing tutor on campus and a speech assistant for the Communication Studies Department. Grace hopes to attend graduate school for a master's degree in Environmental Science.

Larissa Pothoven

Larissa is in the class of 2024 and is double majoring in English and history. She is from Rock Island, Illinois. This is her first year working with *MJUR*; she is also a member of Sigma Tau Delta, COIL, Stockdale Fellows, and serves as the secretary for the Classics Club. Larissa plays flute in the Fighting Scots Marching Band and Wind Ensemble and played in the pit orchestra for Monmouth College's 2021 musical *Little Women*. After graduating, Larissa plans to earn a master's degree and work as an author/editor and a museum curator.

Karisa Warren

Karisa is from Galesburg, Illinois. She is in the class of 2022 and an English major. She earned her Associate of Arts degree and Emergency Medical Technician license from Carl Sandburg College. In addition to working as an editor for *MJUR* for two years, Karisa is an editor for *The Courier* and in English Honors. Karisa plans on working as an editor after she graduates and hopes to find a work-from-home job to best suit her family.