

Dear readers,

During the challenging summer of the COVID-19 pandemic, many researchers have begun to venture onto unfamiliar ground in their pursuit of complex questions. This is a moment in time in which traditional research methods must evolve. Despite this, it is essential to celebrate the careful time and care that goes into research from our undergraduate research communities.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Fall 2020 issue of the Columbia Undergraduate Research Journal, an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary publication that shares thoughtful research from undergraduates in all fields of study.

We present this issue as a long-anticipated step in CURJ's revitalization process. With the support of Columbia University Libraries, we hope to bring together diverse voices in a variety of disciplines through an academically rigorous online space.

This edition of CURJ includes a wealth of rigorous subject matters that range from rhetorical studies to political history. Our three papers reflect the diversity of thought for which an interdisciplinary journal strives. We are delighted for this issue to act as a platform upon which to build future fruitful issues of the journal.

This issue was made possible by the dedicated work of our editorial board during this trying spring and summer, Hannah Prensky, Caroline Magalhaes de Toledo, and Annie Xu. I would also like to thank Columbia University Libraries for support of our journal during its revitalization. We look forward to the growth of our board and future meticulous work that will fulfill our commitment to meaningful presentation of innovative undergraduate thought.

Helen Ruger  
Editor-in-Chief