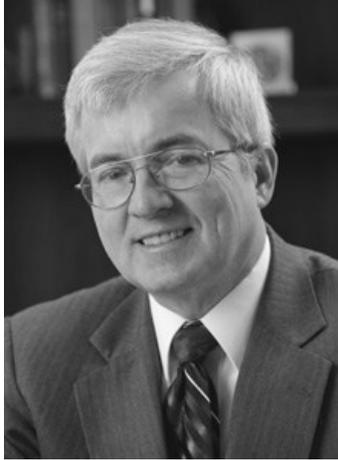


the midwest journal of undergraduate research

mjur



MONMOUTH
- COLLEGE -



Dear Reader,

I have a particularly enjoyable memory of watching a group of first-year students struggle with what must have been their first challenging college conversation. The professor was expertly guiding them to the brink of an important insight. He was asking leading questions that were bringing forth all the right ideas. Suddenly, one of the freshmen smiled, clapped his hands, and announced, "I've got it!" He went on to say that if this was a preview of the next four years he couldn't wait to get on with the college experience.

What he had discovered that day was, of course, the joy of discovery.

A good college will provide its students with the tools for making discoveries. A great college will produce students who love to apply those tools. A structured undergraduate research program is one of the most effective means of making that happen. The articles in this issue of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* are evidence that the student authors have seized this important opportunity.

Reading articles that chronicle student discoveries is exciting even if the topics may be well outside our areas of expertise. The student authors confirm that liberal arts education is still working. They remind us that bright young people are learning the art of problem solving. As you read these articles I hope that you, like the student authors, will experience the joy of making discoveries. And I hope you will find joy, as I do, in the discovery that another generation of curious young people is ready to take on the important problems that face our society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mauri A. Ditzler". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Mauri A. Ditzler Ph.D.
President, Monmouth College



Visit us online at:
<http://research.monm.edu/mjur>

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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 senior Catlin 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 2012 issue.

Works may be submitted to:
mjursub@monmouthcollege.edu

Requirements:

- Deadline for submissions is December 31st, 2011
- Submission may be from any discipline and may follow any standard citation form
- Accompanied with your submission you must provide the following information:
 - ◊ Name
 - ◊ School/Graduating Class
 - ◊ Major
 - ◊ Discipline of paper
 - ◊ Daytime Phone Number
 - ◊ Email Address
 - ◊ Mailing Address
 - ◊ The name and contact information of a sponsoring professor

For questions you may contact us at:
mjur@monmouthcollege.edu

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About the Authors...

Kaila Ryan

Colorado College

Kaila is a sophomore at The Colorado College with a major in mathematics and a minor in education studies. Both her academic and social activities focus on mentoring and working with students who attend low socioeconomic schools. She is the co-leader of Early Birds Tutoring, a club that mentors and tutors at-risk students in reading and mathematics before school, as well as the Vice President of the Rotaract Club of Colorado College. Academically, she plans to spend her next two years at community college taking classes in the economics, education, race and ethnic studies, and mathematics departments. While she is unsure of her future plans, she hopes to combine her love of pure mathematics with her desire to help all students obtain a solid education. She would like to extend her sincerest gratitude to Professor Mike Taber for his guidance while writing this article. Additionally, she would like to thank her family and friends, namely her parents (Michele and Richard Ryan), for their continuous support as she pursues her liberal arts education."

Ronni McCoy

Coe College

Ronni is studying philosophy and political science at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She will graduate in May 2011 and plans to gain experience in the human services field before pursuing a graduate degree. When she is not concerning herself with philosophical inquires, she enjoys working to empower local children and families as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, as well as making sure all of her friends know how awesome it is to be a feminist. She would like to thank John, Andrew, Leah, Nafla, Nick, and Sam for listening to almost two semester's worth of Kantian moral theory.

Kimberleigh Morris

Monmouth College

Kimberleigh is a senior at Monmouth College majoring in psychology. She will be attending the University of Illinois School of Social Work beginning in June 2011 to pursue a Master of Social Work degree with plans to work in the counseling field. After being selected to be apart of an international psychology research team at Monmouth College, she was able to spend a month in Singapore doing background research with two other students and a professor. This experience allowed her to further investigate the differences in counseling attitudes in Singapore and the United States. She would like to send special thanks to Dr. Krisitn Larson, Clara Chan Gek Hoon, and Phyu Sin Chaw Chenyze.

Thomas Poulos

Macalester College

Thomas is currently a senior at Macalester College graduating this spring with a double major in Sociology and Political Science. He is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honors Society and will be presenting at the 2011 Midwest Sociology Society Conference in St. Louis. In the fall, he will be entering the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs' Master of Public Policy program, where he plans to concentrate on social and labor policy. He would like to acknowledge his advisors, Deborah Smith and Terry Boychuk, and all the gay fathers who had the bravery and strength to break barriers.

James Mayer

Macalester College

James is a senior History and Classics major at Macalester College, in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he plans to graduate in May of 2011 with academic honors. His interests lie in the intersection of history, identity and myth. He is a member of both Classics (Eta Sigma Phi) and History (Phi Alpha Theta) national honor societies. James hopes to pursue a Fulbright award in Turkey following his graduation from Macalester, and eventually bring history to the public through museum work and educational outreach. He would like to extend his gratitude to Dr. Beth Severy-Hoven, whose guidance and hard work helped Alexander come to life once again.

Kyle Anne Piasecki

Macalester College

Kyle Anne is a senior at Macalester College majoring in Sociology with a minor in Political Science and Legal Studies. After graduating in May, she will move to Peru to teach English, and study Spanish. Upon her return, she plans to attend law school and pursue a career in immigration law. She would like to thank her advisors, Terry Boychuk and Deborah Smith, for guiding her through the writing of her submission.

Beth Budnick

Carlton College

Beth is currently a senior at Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. She will be attending law school upon her graduation. Her submission is a version of her Senior Comprehensive Exercise in Political Science. She would like to thank Professor Richard Keiser for his guidance and insight throughout the project.

From the Editors...

We are pleased to present the inaugural issue of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research*. Originally conceived as a venue reserved for Monmouth College students, the decision was made early to open the journal to include the research of undergraduate students from all member institutions of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. It is our hope that this journal will inspire further research and promote scholarly communication and collaboration among undergraduates in the midwest.

The journal began as an idea among a few members of the Monmouth College faculty in the summer of 2010. After drafting a proposal to the board of trustees, funding was provided, and the faculty were given the green light to proceed. In the fall, six editors were hired to pioneer the journal's founding. During this process, a name was chosen, qualifications for submission were created, and a call for papers was sent to the deans of all ACM schools. *The Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* was born.

Since then, we have been impressed by both the quantity and quality of submissions received in just our first year. Since our call for papers was first sent out in January, 2011, we have received twenty-six submission from twelve ACM institutions encompassing disciplines such as classics, history, political science, philosophy, literature, mathematics, computer science, film studies, education, psychology, and gender studies. We were charged with the very difficult decision of choosing submissions that presented not only compelling arguments and well written prose, but also demonstrated the substantial ability of midwest undergraduates to gather and present primary research. Through an anonymous reviewing process, we have selected these seven articles to comprise our first issue, that we felt best exemplified our goals as a journal.

In this issue, we have compiled articles that highlight some of the most spectacular and challenging issues facing society, both today and in the past. You will analyze one of the greatest rulers of the ancient world and better understand his political and social relevance. You will examine two political policies that are having a great impact on American society by specifically concentrating on their effect in the midwest. Further, you will be exposed to two issues that have a profound effect on American culture and have become a driving force in American politics. Finally, you will examine identity formation and its effects on societies around the world.

Thank you for your interest and support of our journal. We look forward to many more years of presenting exemplary research from the midwest.

Sincerely,

MJUR Editorial Board

About the Editors...



Geoff Bird

Geoff is a senior History major from Kenilworth, Illinois. His academic interests include 20th century studies with a focus on the Cold War era. He is a member of the Monmouth College Cross Country and Track and Field team, as well as a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society. He plans to attend the University of Notre Dame to pursue a masters of architecture degree.

Hope Grebner

Hope is a senior History major from Green Valley, Illinois. Her academic interests include 20th century political history focusing on civil rights and bipartisanship. She is the president of the Beta-Phi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta as well as a member of the Blue Key Honor Society and the Mortar Board Honor Society. After graduating from Monmouth, Hope plans to attend Indiana University to pursue masters degrees in history and library science.

Alex Holt

Alex is a junior English major from Evanston, Illinois. In addition to his major, Alex is also minoring in Classics and Business. Alex participates in several campus organizations such as the Monmouth College Honors Program and Student Government. His main research interests concern selfhood and identity construction, particularly in the Early Modern period. Alex hopes to pursue his graduate-level studies in the United Kingdom

Ben Peterson

Ben is a senior History and Philosophy major from Afton, Minnesota. His academic interests include intellectual history, Modernism, World War I, and Kantian philosophy. He is a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society, and Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society.

Anthony St. Clair

Anthony is a senior History major from Overland Park, Kansas. His academic interests include political and economic history focusing particularly on the Great Depression, the two World Wars, and presidential history. He is a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, the Order of Omega Greek Life Honor Society, and Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

Wesley Teal

Wesley is a junior English and history double major from Burlington, Iowa. His academic interests include Native American and labor history. He is a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society.

