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Dear Readers,

To begin, I want to thank the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research – MJUR* – its faculty coordinator, Dr. Fred Witzig, and its talented staff of student editors for granting me the honor of introducing this special *MJUR* issue. The articles contained within are representative of the outstanding projects presented at the April 2017 *Conference of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship*, co-sponsored by *MJUR* and Monmouth College. The conference welcomed student scholars from institutions around the United States, from as far away as Alaska and from right here at Monmouth College.

Manuscripts submitted for this special *MJUR* issue were subjected to the same review process as are those submitted for consideration to the annual issues of *MJUR*. Out of this competitive process, seven outstanding manuscripts from a variety of disciplines were selected for publication. In the area of literary analysis and criticism, **Marissa Bouska** compares the use of sentimental metaphors in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *Married or Single?* to create social reform. **Adam Kerker** analyzes *The Recognitions* as a critique of the modernist period of literature; **Clare Bender** explores the strong feminist currents in the story of *Little Women*; and **Lauren Lipski** scrutinizes “the weird” as an analytic concept through various normatively unusual artistic works. Political science scholar **Christopher Saladin** uses data from the World Values Survey to study the relationship between democratic proponency and political action in the Middle East, before and after the Arab Spring. Sociology and anthropology scholar **Sophie Hale-Brown** reports findings from her anthropological study of communication strategies used by staff to promote the vegan dietary experience in the environment of a luxury resort. Classics scholar **Adrian Scaife** examines the reign of post-Constantinian Emperor Julian the Apostate and his impact on the development of Christianity.

An academic conference of undergraduate research is a powerful testament to the growth and vibrancy of undergraduate scholarship in U.S. colleges and universities today. At Monmouth College, home of the *MJUR* student editorial board and site of *MJUR* publication, we take pride in the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* and the quality of manuscripts we publish annually from a wide variety of academic disciplines. We are delighted to offer, in addition to our regular annual issues, this special “conference proceedings” issue as representation of exceptional undergraduate student work and a tribute to the inaugural *MJUR*-Monmouth College *Conference of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship*.

Sincerely,

Judi Kessler

Conference Coordinator

Faculty Advisor, *MJUR*

Professor of Sociology, 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 this 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:

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Thank you all for your contributions.

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 tenth issue (2019).

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
- Accompanying your submission, you must provide the following information:
 - 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 2019 issue is January 15, 2019. Submissions received after this date will be reviewed for publication consideration in the 2020 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:
mjur@monmouthcollege.edu

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About the Authors ...

Clare Noel Bender

University of Northwestern—St. Paul, 2016

Clare Noel Bender graduated from the University of Northwestern – St. Paul in December of 2016, where she double majored in English literature/writing and biblical studies. During her time at Northwestern, she wrote for the school’s newspaper, the *Examiner*, and was published in *Inkstone*, the University’s literary journal. Currently, she is interning at Lyric Arts, a theatre company, as the Marketing and Development Assistant. She would like to thank Dr. Keith Jones and Dr. Steven Harthorn for their guidance, advice, and support.

Marissa Bouska

Coe College, 2017

Marissa Bouska, originally from Hawkeye, Iowa, graduated in May 2017 with her Bachelor of Arts degree in English, communication studies, and gender studies from Coe College. She is now pursuing a career in publishing in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Sophia Hale-Brown

Beloit College, 2018

Sophia Hale-Brown is a senior at Beloit College, double majoring in anthropology and sociology. Since 2015, she has explored food sustainability and food justice issues in the United States through community-based learning and research projects within the context of an eco-resort, artisan grocery store/restaurant, community garden, and indigenous community. After graduation, Sophia will continue to develop her research skills and explore communications, deviance, social movements, consumer research, and other food-related topics to understand the relationship among sustainability, social life, and consumer society. She thanks the Liberal Arts in Practice and Venture Grants, as well as her professors Jennifer Esperanza, Kylie Quave, Kieran Bezila, Kendra Schiffman, Carol Wickersham, and Shannon Fie at Beloit and her supervisors and informants at the inn, for supporting this research project and publication.

Adam Kerker*Illinois College, 2017*

Adam Kerker earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Illinois College. He is currently a graduate student pursuing an MA in English literature at the University of Missouri—Columbia.

Lauren Lipski*Colorado Mesa University, 2018*

Lauren Lipski is a senior at Colorado Mesa University, pursuing Bachelor of Arts degrees in Literature, Writing, and Hispanic Studies. At Colorado Mesa, Lauren works as the managing editor of both the student newspaper and the university's poetry magazine. She is also a two-time national qualifier in cross country and track and field. Upon graduation, Lauren would like to pursue a doctorate in comparative literature and critical theory. She would also like to extend a thank you to Dr. Barry Laga for his guidance throughout the writing process and his encouragement to present and publish this project.

Christopher Saladin*Augustana College, 2017*

Christopher Saladin is a recent graduate of Augustana College with a Bachelor of Arts in history, political science, and classics. Christopher is currently in his first year at the University of Minnesota, where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in ancient history. His academic interests are primarily in the history of government and popular politics in the early Roman Republic. Christopher would especially like to thank Dr. Mariano Magalhaes for his help on this project and for his guidance as a mentor.

Adrian Scaife*Rhodes College, 2017*

Adrian Scaife is a native of Lexington, Kentucky, and the son of two educators and classicists. He attended Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, graduating in the spring of 2017 with degrees in history and Greek and Roman studies. Currently he is living and working as an English teaching assistant in Cádiz, Spain. When he is not in the classroom or enjoying the beach, Adrian can often be found letting loose and living vicariously through the revolutionary mindset of his new Spanish compatriots. In the future he hopes to pursue a career in teaching or writing.

About the Editors ...

Madeline Dohleman

Madeline Dohleman was born in Pontiac, Illinois, in 1996. She is the daughter of Terry and Shannon Dohleman. Madeline is a senior biopsychology and exercise science double major. She participates in Monmouth College women's basketball, track and field, Alpha Xi Delta, and many more academic extracurricular activities. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school for exercise physiology or neurobiology.

Jamie Donahue

Jamie Donahue is a junior psychology major with a minor in human services. In addition to her work with *MJUR*, she is a writing tutor for the Monmouth College Writing Center, as well as an anthropology tutor. Jamie is vice president/secretary of the Garden Club, is a member of Psi Chi, and is on drumline for marching and concert band, in addition to percussion ensemble. Her interests involve playing video games and watching movies with her friends, and her favorite restaurant is Five Guys. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she plans to attend grad school to pursue a career in counseling.

Logan Evans

Logan is a freshman biochemistry major. He has one brother, named Blake, one dog, and seven cats. After earning his bachelor's degree, he plans on attending medical school. His goal is to be either a neurosurgeon or a trauma surgeon. Logan will be shadowing a surgeon during his upcoming breaks from Monmouth College. Logan loves reading, writing, studying chemistry, and being with his friends. His favorite book is *Ender's Game*, and he will read pretty much anything. He is an active member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, A.S.A.P., and the Pre-Health Society. Logan has also worked with Santa's Hospital Helpers, a corporation that raises money to purchase toys for children in the hospital on Christmas, for eleven years. He loves helping people and hopes to one day be able to help people every day of his life.

Daniel Hintzke

Daniel Hintzke is a Navy veteran and a senior at Monmouth College, where he is double majoring in both history and classics. In addition to his job as *MJUR* Operations Editor, he has also worked on campus as its history tutor. Off campus, he volunteers for the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, where he works on the honor guard detail, which provides funeral and/or graveside ceremonies for those who have passed. His interests include traveling (20 countries and counting), reading history books, exercising, and unashamedly watching anime. In his post-Monmouth life, he plans to sail onto graduate school, where he will continue his love of obscure dead languages in pursuit of a degree in Medieval Studies.

Amjad Karkout

Amjad is a senior majoring in political science and minoring in psychology and media. Amjad works for *MJUR* as a reviewer and design editor. He also works as political science tutor and resident assistant at Monmouth College. After graduating from Monmouth, Amjad plans to pursue a Ph.D. in either political psychology, political economy, or comparative politics. His dream is to draw links among research in the social science fields that will enrich the storage of the collective intellectual efforts of human beings.

Lily Lindner

Lily is a sophomore English major from Morton, Illinois. After her time at Monmouth, Lily intends to attend graduate school. When not attending to *MJUR* duties, Lily is very involved on campus as a varsity women's soccer captain, the president of Alpha Lambda Delta honor society, a member of Pi Beta Phi women's fraternity, a member of Rotaract, a writing tutor, a resident assistant, and an inaugural member of the Stockdale Fellows leadership program. Before leaving Monmouth College, Lily hopes see the Monmouth women's soccer team to the NCAA tournament for the first time, study abroad, and create endearing memories of her undergraduate experience. Lily is an undeviating coffee drinker, an avid cookie connoisseur, a napping enthusiast, a patriotic introvert, and a chronic procrastinator. She also has a deep love for pumpkins, her friends and family, her pet dogs, Genevieve and Boo, and her pet fish, Lord Farquaad.

Stephanie Saey

Stephanie Saey is a senior at Monmouth College double majoring in biochemistry and biopsychology. Along with being an *MJUR* editor, she is involved in cross country and track, is a chemistry tutor, and holds membership positions in various honor societies. Following graduation, Stephanie will be applying to medical school. She has aspirations to become the next Derek Shepherd in female form.

Sophia Slocum

Sophie Slocum is a senior studying biopsychology for occupational therapy. She adores cats and Dr. Pepper, and she spent an incredible semester abroad in Costa Rica! Other fun facts include that she has a twin brother and that she is a writing tutor and an interfaith leader on her campus.

Hadley Smithhisler

Hadley Smithhisler is a sophomore history and French double major at Monmouth College. In addition to working as secretary of *MJUR*, Hadley works as a leadership mentor in the Wackerle Career and Leadership Center, tutors in the writing center, plays cello in Monmouth's chamber orchestra, and serves as the president of Rotaract, a service organization. Hadley is a dog lover, a twin, an avid reader, and a collector of blue lipsticks. After graduation, she intends to earn a law degree and eventually practice international law.

Nhung Vu

Nhung Vu is a senior from Hanoi, Vietnam. She is studying communications and public relations and plans to pursue a career in academia. In addition to being an editor for *MJUR*, Nhung is also a writing tutor for the Monmouth College Writing Center and Head Resident of Grier Hall (yay team Grier!). She has an undying love for coffee and early afternoon naps and is often described as sassy. When she grows up, Nhung plans to move to a tropical island by herself, build her own tree house, and make friends with wild animals.

Isaac Willis

Isaac Willis is a Monmouth senior. After finishing his Bachelor of Arts, he intends to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in poetry. Isaac is dedicated to paying literary and philosophical attention to those bodies—especially plants and animals—that live outside the margins of our sight or in the corners of our eyes, to borrow a phrase from Lewis Thomas.

Haley Willits

Haley is a senior English major with a theatre minor and is from Gladstone, Illinois. In addition to working as an editor for *MJUR*, she has been a first-year mentor for three years, a member of the Monmouth College Pipe Band, and an inductee of multiple honor societies. She continues her love for writing by working with *The Coil*, Monmouth College's creative magazine. After graduating, she plans to pursue a career in editorial work. She recently studied abroad in Florence and London and is excited to return to both places in the future. Her hobbies mainly consist of drinking coffee and tea while reading with her cats.

Hunter Wollwert

As an English and Spanish double major, Hunter is committed to language and its use in every form she can find. She is a writing tutor on campus and a clarinet section leader in the school's marching band. In her nonexistent free time, she enjoys walking through campus searching for dogs. Still undecided on what her future after graduation will hold, she simply wishes to be happy wherever life takes her.

Conference of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship 2017

MJUR would like to recognize and thank last year's student editors and faculty advisors for their involvement in the conference and the publication of this special *MJUR* issue:

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