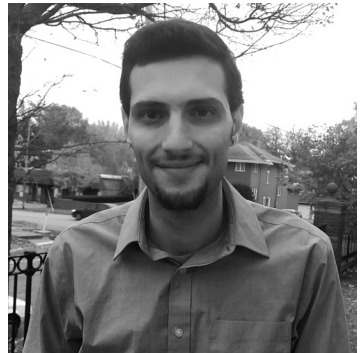




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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the eleventh issue of the *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research*; Proceedings of the 2nd Conference of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship special issue. Co-sponsored by *MJUR* and Monmouth College with support from the Augustana College Political Science Department, the conference welcomed about 70 scholars from across the nation who presented their research poster and oral sessions.



As the conference assistant-manager and a recent Monmouth College graduate and *MJUR* editor, I am proud to start by sharing with you some numbers about our journal. *MJUR* has been publishing articles since 2011. During these nine years, the journal hosted two conferences and published 88 research articles conducted by 95 scholars from over 40 undergraduate institutions in the U.S. and Canada. In the past few years, the journal's acceptance rate of articles ranged between 10-15%. And while most of the undergraduate research journals in the U.S. are discipline-focused and only accept articles by students at their academic institution, *MJUR* is one of only 17 multidisciplinary undergraduate research journals in the U.S. that accept national and international submissions.

We selected four manuscripts for publication in this issue. Art history scholar **Jacob Friedrich** introduces an unknown painting by Washington Allston and argues that it communicated the painter's frustration with American reception of his art. English critic **Mason Patterson** discusses maternal anxiety through analyzing the Netflix original series *The Haunting of Hill House*. Political Scientist **Mackenzi Lafferty** addresses the pink tax and the gender price disparity, and examines why this persists within society. Social scientist **Jacob Hubers** investigates the use of crime throughout several of Toni Morrison's books.

Academic conferences such as this one allow scholars to contribute to their fields of study as well as to public knowledge, which are essential features of research in all disciplines. Researchers play an important role in improving our communities through sharing their findings with their peers and the public¹. This process of presenting and publishing academic research has long benefitted not only the researchers in advancing their research methods and design, but also policymakers in their decisions, professionals in their practices, and citizens in their day-to-day activities. Yet, most undergraduate students in the U.S. are excluded from the final

1. Stanovich, K. E. (2010). *How to think straight about psychology* (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

steps of this meaningful research process because of the lack of platforms that allow undergraduates to participate in the peer-review and publishing processes². Nonetheless, undergraduate research allows students to engage in the worlds of academic research by gaining the practical experience and necessary tools to contribute to the production of learning and to public knowledge.³

Monmouth College's mission has always been to prepare undergraduates for rich personal and professional lives and to prepare socially responsible citizens. It is in this spirit that *MJUR* and Monmouth College support undergraduate academic excellence by providing undergraduates a platform to carry their research and studies to the final steps of the research process; that is, peer-review and publication. We are proud to present to you this conference edition of *MJUR* with its high quality undergraduate research and as a true example of liberal arts education.

Thank you to everyone who helped us make the conference and the publication of this issue possible, and congratulations to the authors who worked very hard on their papers.

Amjad Karkout, Monmouth College '18
Conference Assistant-Manager
Administrative Assistant, Monmouth College

2. Jungck, J. R., Harris, M., Mercuri, R., & Tusin, J. (2004). Points of view: should students be encouraged to publish their research in student-run publications?: Undergraduates: do research, publish!. *Cell biology education*, 3(1), 24–26. doi:10.1187/cbe.04-01-0022

3. Walkington, H., & Jenkins, A. (2008). Embedding undergraduate research publication in the student learning experience. *Brookes eJournal of Learning and Teaching*, 2(3), 2. Retrieved from http://bejlt.brookes.ac.uk/paper/embedding_undergraduate_research_publication_in_the_student_learning_experi-2/

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Amjad Karkout, MJUR Staff Support

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 twelfth issue (2020).

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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 - Citation style used
 - 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

The submission deadline for the 2020 issue is January 15, 2020. Submissions received after this date will be reviewed for publication consideration in the 2021 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 Editors ...

Natalie Córdoba

Natalie Córdoba is a senior art major with a media minor at Monmouth College. In addition to being an editor for *MJUR*, she is also part of the Alpha Lambda Delta, Mortar Board, and Lambda Pi Eta honor societies. Natalie is also the vice president of Event Planning for Pi Beta Phi, a violinist in the Monmouth College Chamber Orchestra, and an executive for Monmouth College TV. In her free time, she enjoys filming, directing, and editing short films, engaging in the arts, and spending time with friends and family. She plans to study and pursue a career in filmmaking after graduation.

Logan Evans

Logan is a junior biochemistry major, with plans to go into a JD/PhD program. This is his third year with *MJUR*. Logan is also involved in the American Chemical Society, the Pre-Health Society, and the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society. He is also the president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. In his free time, Logan enjoys reading, hanging out with his friends, and working on his research in the chemistry department.

Matthew Franciscovich

Matthew Franciscovich is a junior physics major. When he has completed his undergraduate degree, he plans to pursue further education in the field of astrophysics. Using his studies of astrophysics and cosmology, he hopes to further investigate the origin and the future of the universe. In addition to his work at *MJUR*, he is an executive member of the Epsilon Nu chapter of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, an Illinois State Scholar, and a member of the Monmouth College swim team. His interests include conducting thought experiments, solving puzzles, and exploring the cosmos.

Shay Hafner

Shay is a freshman and is still exploring possible majors. He is a member of the cross country and track team and is a Stockdale Fellow. In his free time, Shay enjoys reading, running, and spending time with his friends and family.

Gunnar Leaf

Gunnar Leaf is a junior English major from Knoxville, Illinois. In addition to his *MJUR* responsibilities, Gunnar works as a writing tutor and COIL editor. He had perfect attendance all throughout junior high and high school. Gunnar's other academic interests are Spanish and political science. Outside of academia, he loves to go on walks, play cards with friends and family, as well as analyze and discuss film. After graduation, Gunnar hopes to move on to graduate school and continue to pursue his passion for writing and storytelling.

Talia Long

Talia is a freshman biochemistry major and plans to apply to veterinary school in the future. She is involved in the Stockdale Fellows Leadership Program, American Chemical Society, and Pre-Health Society. In spare time, Talia enjoys spending time with animals and spending time outdoors.

Ashlyn Maher

Ashlyn Maher is a senior biopsychology major and global public health minor from Brimfield, Illinois. She has done her own research within the field of narrative psychology on the relationship between depression and narrative tone and has presented research at several undergraduate conferences. In addition to working on this journal, she is also a teacher's assistant for research methods in psychology. When not studying, she spends her time playing with her and her husband's German Shepherd, trying to tackle her ever-growing "to read" pile of books, and watching movies. She plans on pursuing a PhD in clinical psychology.

Grant Miller

Grant Miller is a sophomore math major from Aurora, Colorado. In addition to being a part of *MJUR*, Grant sings in the Monmouth Chorale and Chamber Choir, is a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, plays lacrosse, and is a member of the Stockdale Fellows Leadership Program. Grant is exploring major and career options for the future.

Luna Noofoory

Luna is a senior majoring in political science and minoring in French. She is the design editor for *MJUR*. She also plays the violin and the piano and is a member of the Monmouth College Chamber Orchestra. Luna has previously

volunteered as a teacher for refugee children in Lebanon, and plans to volunteer overseas in the future. After graduating from Monmouth College, Luna plans on obtaining her master's in international relations. She aspires to work for the United Nations, and despite having lived in five countries, she plans on traveling and learning more languages.

Grace Simpson

Grace is an environmental studies and sustainability major with plans to have a minor in Global Food Security. This is her first year in *MJUR*. Grace is also involved with the Stockdale Fellows Program, Environmental Club, and the sorority Kappa Kappa Gamma. In her free time, Grace enjoys reading and doing service projects with her Kappa sisters and fellows.

Hadley Smithhisler

Hadley Smithhisler is a senior studying history and French at Monmouth College. Hadley has worked for the Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research since her first year at Monmouth and is happy to serve as its coordinating editor for her final year with the journal. Outside of her work with *MJUR*, Hadley is a writing tutor, an employee of the Wackerle Center, a cellist, a former intern for the National Down Syndrome Society, and president of Monmouth's Rotaract chapter. After graduating in May of 2020, Hadley intends to pursue a law degree, concentrating in international or human rights law.

Shannon Wilbourne

Shannon Wilbourne is a sophomore accounting and Spanish double major at Monmouth College. When asked, Shannon will say she's from the Southwest side of Chicago, but she was born and raised for most of her still rather short life in Appleton, WI. Before graduating, Shannon hopes to study abroad for two semesters in two separate continents. In addition to her role as an *MJUR* editor, Shannon is highly involved around campus, including but not limited to: Stockdale Fellows, Rotaract, and the honors program. That being said, Shannon is best known on campus for remembering people's names and always saying "hi" when she sees them. She is a strong believer that the sweetest sound to anyone is their name.

Conference of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship 2019

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Our sincere thanks to Monmouth College President Clarence Wyatt, the Monmouth College Board of Trustees, and the Monmouth College community, without whose support this conference would not have been possible. We are grateful to Dr. Mariano Magalhaes and the Political Science Department of Augustana College for their excellent work in coordinating submissions. Additional thanks to Tim Bridge, Director of Web initiatives, and Nick Carlson, Information Systems Programmer/Infrastructure Analyst, for online technical support.

The keynote address for the Conference of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship was delivered by **Diana Abu-Jaber**, a critically acclaimed author, essayist and educator.

