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at the University of Kansas**

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The *Undergraduate Research Journal for the Humanities* is a student-run, student-reviewed, and student-published annual academic journal.

Its purpose is to provide a venue for undergraduates at the University of Kansas to share their research in the Humanities.



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Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Readers,

When I embarked on the British Summer Institute in the Humanities last summer, I had no idea I would be returning as the head of a student organization, or soon-to-be at least. I had not been part of any previous *URJH* editorial staffs, I did not consider myself a research-oriented undergraduate, and I certainly did not know what exactly an Editor-in-Chief was supposed to do. Nevertheless, I was eager to find out and to make something that matters. After a difficult, turbulent, very educational, and very rewarding year, I am extremely excited to be passing this tradition on to the outstanding Kelsey Rolofson for the 2020-21 edition.

The University of Kansas has once again proven itself an exceptional place for undergraduate research. To be frank, I knew very little about undergraduate research at KU beyond my obligatory final papers – and something called an “Honors Thesis” – before I signed on to bring back the *Journal*, but the response from KU faculty, staff, and students has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive. This journal is for them.

This journal is the culmination of countless hours of work by some of the best KU has to offer. I must first thank the Editorial Committee, who believed in this cause and trusted me enough to take on more work outside of their reading-and-writing intensive Humanities classes and their on- and off-campus jobs. As my predecessor Matthew Dunn wrote, “It takes a special kind of undergraduate to not only complete a majority of their class readings but to volunteer to read and edit even more articles.” It has been a joy and a comfort to work alongside them through this process, which we were all learning together, and they deserve commendation for their patience with my rambling updates and endless questions. Thankfully, we had the exhaustive blueprint and consultation of our founding Editors, Savannah Pine and Matthew Dunn. Without Savannah’s documentation and patience with my many questions and Matt’s willingness to answer questions essentially “on-call”, this fourth edition of the *URJH* would not be possible.

For the KU faculty and staff that welcomed me into the fold of undergraduate research and guided me as I assembled a staff and re-assembled our network of partners, I am tremendously grateful, especially for those faculty members who so generously donated their time to the *Journal* while re-structuring their classes to an online format. You are superheroes. And, of course, to our talented authors published and yet unpublished, who provided us with captivating research and new perspectives, thank you for being part of the process; for believing in the *Journal*, for the courage to submit your work, and for your patience and understanding thereafter.

The *Journal* is especially indebted to the KU History Department, the KU English Department, and KU Libraries, all of which have given the *Journal* a home and the support of a family as we rebuild. I am thankful for Student Senate, who had so generously coached us through the funding request process and allocated funds to publish this issue before the campus shutdown. Similarly, Marianne Reed and Pam LeRow of KU Libraries were vital in not only helping us publish our articles online and constructing this edition but also in maintaining the *URJH*’s online presence through our new OJS website. Finally, we thank our Partners for their unending support through changing times; and our faculty advisor Dr. Jonathan Hagel, who was the first to ask me, “Are you sure you want to do this?”, who has been an invaluable support to our efforts, and whom I personally count among my amazing advisors at KU.

The *Undergraduate Research Journal for the Humanities* would not be possible without the exceptional individuals and departments mentioned above, and many, many more that I am afraid I simply do not have the space to thank. The *Journal* extends its sincerest, deepest thanks to you. We hope you enjoy this issue and learn something new.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MK', written in a cursive style.

Madelynn G. Kurtz, Editor-in-Chief

Articles