
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Journal

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Mentoring Undergraduate Research Through Publication

Undergraduate Research is a forum for multidisciplinary undergraduate research and creative endeavors within higher education. The journal's mission is to establish a forum for undergraduate students to publish and promote their research, as well as to promote mentorship at the undergraduate level. Undergraduate Research remains committed to publishing the highest quality journal possible, so the editors choose papers based on merit rather than discipline. Oftentimes, the quality of the submission is hindered by a lack of mentoring throughout the manuscript submission process.

As part of the manuscript submission process, all students sign an author agreement designating their faculty mentor to help ensure originality and quality. However, as we have begun the process into the publication of undergraduate research, it appears many students lack guidance and mentorship beyond the research process. In the year since its inception, the most common issues our journal has come across would be students not submitting blind materials, some requested materials are missing, and many students appear to be unsure how to proceed if they are asked for revisions.

It is our view that the first two issues, lack of a blind manuscript and missing materials, are often an oversight or simply a lack of following instructions. Nevertheless, with a mentor available during the submission process, this could be avoided. Yet, neither of these are the main issue we would like to bring attention. For many students, when they receive a response, be it a revise and resubmit or a rejection, we provide reviewer comments. These should serve as a pathway to growth, whether or not the manuscript is ever published. But if the student is unsure or simply lacks the knowledge of the review process, in our experience, not only is the publication process delayed, but the student is anxious, and at times, will not complete the revisions therefor losing a valuable opportunity.

Many undergraduate institutions expect faculty to facilitate and mentor undergraduate research. Usually that might include a research project with a paper and/or presentation. As our journal provides the opportunity to publish these works, we encourage faculty to continue the mentoring of undergraduate research beyond the final paper or presentation. The opportunity of a published manuscript at the undergraduate level is invaluable for many students. Having a mentor to guide them through that process will help to ensure there are no missed opportunities.

Alesa Lilies

Managing Editor,
Undergraduate Research

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AND A MINOR IN MARKETING

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Table of Contents

1.	Sexual Exploitation of Indigenous Andean Women in Peru:10 President Fujimori’s impact in the 1990s and the current cultural implications. Carolyn Garner, University of North Carolina – Greensboro Mentors: Dr. Kathleen Macfie, Dr. Corey Johnson, International and Global Studies, University of North Carolina – Greensboro
2.	Fueled by Plants:46 The Effects of Vegetarianism on Overall Health Celia Imhoff, Georgia College & State University Mentor: Dr. Debbie Greene, Associate Director for School of Nursing, Georgia College & State University
3.	Optimization of SDS Page Analysis of Parvalbumin Protein in Fish84 Nguyen Le, Columbia College Mentor: Marlee Marsh, Associate Professor of Biology, Columbia College
4.	Outsmarting Monsters and Murderers:.....96 An Examination of Métis in Horror Literature Evan Marshall, Northern Virginia Community College Mentor: Kyle Trott, Northern Virginia Community College
5.	A Comparative Study of European Christian Democracy and Hindu Nationalism in India:118 The Birth of Hindu Democracy Nirav Mehta, Swarthmore College Mentor: Dr. Julia Lynch, Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania
6.	Atomic Culture and Cultural Industry:.....154 Their Spread and Acceptance in America During 1940s and 1960s Iuri Piovezan, Temple University Mentor: Dr. Jesse Curtis, Valparaiso University
7.	Ethicality of Data Mining and Predicative Analytics172 Sophie Roper, Park University Mentor: Dr. Adrian James, Department Chair and Assistant Professor of Management, Park University



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