

FROM THE EDITOR



When asked to be an editor for this journal, I could not help but think on how the Newcomb Scholars program has given me the tools and space for growth that led me to this position. When I came into college, I was only starting to form my own opinions about the role of women in today's society. While I was adamant that women were capable of running the world, I did not have the vocabulary or knowledge to articulate that opinion to others. Newcomb Scholars is so much more than an honors program, it is a

home where I, along with the other members of my cohort, were allowed to develop the language necessary to critically analyze our world through a gendered lens. Four years later, the case studies featured in *Women Leading Change* are a testament to our development as feminist thinkers and leaders, drawing attention to the fact that women play a role in every sector of life. More importantly, women are leading change, as the name of this journal indicates. Not only do the dilemmas and protagonists presented in these cases display the potential for progressive change, their authors have been shaped by the writing process into change-makers themselves.

Case studies are primarily used as teaching tools in the fields of law, business, and politics. Being an interdisciplinary program, the Scholars of my cohort all come from different academic backgrounds, and many of us had never worked with case studies before. As our third-year seminar progressed, we quickly learned that case studies were not that different from the type of writing that we were accustomed to, well-researched and informative, and that they also came with the added benefit of including lessons in leadership. After reading case studies for a whole semester and debating the issues presented in those cases amongst ourselves, we were ready to put the rigorous research skills the program taught us to good use in writing a case study of our own. As students, the case study method is a teaching tool that we can take with us even as we leave the world of academia and enter the work force, where we will no doubt encounter difficult ethical and moral issues for ourselves. Through this writing process, we gleaned the leadership skills necessary to handle the issues that come our way, and the ability to be a source of change regardless of whether we will fight for women's rights or those of other minority groups in our various fields.

Not all of the cases in this journal could be classified as traditional, as their authors come from disciplines that do not employ case method teaching. You will find in these pages examples of leadership on both an individual and organizational level featuring women protagonists or groups that are working on women's issues. Some of the cases in this journal address how institutions of higher education manage issues of sexual assault, or gender gaps in academic performance. Other cases examine the work of women, past and present, in the battle field during war or in a mixed martial arts arena. Two cases look at how organizations engage in the process of public policy making in order to fight for a more equitable world for women. Regardless of the area of study, these same dilemmas are found in every profession today, and the analysis of these dilemmas and the lessons learned from this analysis can be applied almost universally. Whether it be on a large or small scale, leadership is necessary in all facets of life, and these cases demonstrate the many ways in which leadership takes shape. The cases in this journal impart the idea that leadership is not always easy and sometimes requires controversial decisions

to be made on the part of the leader or the organization in order to effect change. Making these hard choices often falls on the shoulders of women and can be risky for them both personally and professionally. Nonetheless, the women leaders found in these cases are bold, uncompromising in their belief that women's issues deserve attention and action, and willing to take matters into their own hands to meet their goals.

These case studies are meant to teach, and I hope the readers of this journal may learn from these pages and pass that knowledge on to others. Serving as the editor of this journal has been an honor. I am humbled to have had the opportunity to learn from the Scholars who came before me, to feel passionate about what my own brilliant cohort is passionate about, and to look forward to what the next cohort of Scholars has to offer. It makes me proud to know that I come from a tradition of women who are undoubtedly leading their own change and inspiring others to do the same.

Sincerely,

Tina Nguyen
Class of 2018

Tina Nguyen is a senior Newcomb Scholar, majoring in Gender and Sexuality Studies. She hopes to attend medical school upon graduating from Tulane University, and her dream is to become a gynecologist and obstetrician.