

## FROM THE EDITOR



When I began editing for this journal I was initially unfamiliar with using case studies as a research and instruction tool. Through my time as an editor, I've grown to love case studies and view them as an incredibly effective method for exploring and teaching about gender, social justice, and change issues. At the beginning of each new issue, I find myself eagerly awaiting each student's new case. These cases work as teaching tools because they bring to life key moments in organizations and social movements, providing readers and writers alike a unique opportunity to critically analyze questions of social change and leadership. By highlighting key historical moments or shifts in organizational policies, these case studies illuminate previously hidden dynamics and disrupt misleading narratives that these events are always part of a cohesive or unified movement. Case studies allow for exploration of the tensions and hard choices made within groups or organizations and the personal struggles faced by leaders themselves. Close examination and dissection of these challenges and internal conflicts immerses students and readers in real-life scenarios making them effective tools for shaping future leaders. Each case study is unique, serving as a rigorous form of academic research while providing lessons in leadership.

The cases presented come from undergraduate women interested in a diverse range of topics, each with different career aspirations. Though united specifically in their interest and commitment to studying women's leadership and social change, the authors address these complex issues through analyzing a broad and diverse range of topics, from anti-logging activism in the Pacific Northwest and sexual harassment in the forest service, to attempts to change the organizational culture at businesses like Uber. Cases related to health topics - a subject near and dear to my own heart- are presented in many of the cases in this issue. Issues such as sex education in Louisiana schools, the challenges presented by innovating cancer detection technologies, and the ethical and medical predicaments facing new parents with a pre-term child, are presented in ways that offer lessons and insight into the particular challenges facing leaders in health fields.

These cases are inspiring to me because I believe strongly in working across disciplines and using multiple approaches to address complex problems. I admire the collaborative and inter-disciplinary approach of the Newcomb scholars. I hope these scholars will continue to cooperate with individuals in different fields as they go on to become political leaders, activists, lawyers, doctors, teachers, researchers and social workers. Including a wide scope of case study topics allows students to identify and contrast the underlying themes present in each other's cases, and to draw lessons they can apply to future challenges.

It continues to be an honor to act as an editor for this journal and I am excited to see what new cases students develop in our upcoming issues. These cases represent months of research, writing, revision and reflection by the talented Newcomb Scholars selected to present their work in this journal. I hope this issue serves to instruct and inspire our readers as much as they have taught and inspired me.

Sincerely,

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