

## FROM THE EDITOR



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o become a Newcomb Scholar, first-year students must consider the following question on their application: in the modern age, do we still need feminism? Most of us know the answer is a clear, resounding “yes,” and mounds of reasons lay everywhere we look. With the recent overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, many are newly awakened to the fragility of women’s status in the contemporary age. As shockwaves rock the American public, we return to the question of what is needed to understand women’s experiences, and from those experiences, build a better future. How can we record women’s successes and struggles as they face the formidable, nuanced conflicts of the real world?

As emerging academics and leaders, Scholars are challenged to critically reflect on one of these stories by authoring a case study. Case studies are meant to spark conversations among students and field experts alike, providing a canvas to apply theories and trends onto concrete examples. Through endless hours of research, writing, and revisions, we each prepared a piece about women or women’s issues, exploring historic injustices, intersections with race, and the impacts of inequality on everyday people.

The following cases explore an overarching theme, each highlighting women’s health in pregnancy, childbirth, and untraditional workplaces.

Author Jazlynn Leung first introduces the complex, emotional decisions that pregnant women face upon receiving a Down Syndrome diagnosis. Author Jordan Godfrey then discusses inequities in maternal health outcomes and Representative Underwood’s efforts to address them in the Build Back Better plan. Continuing Leung’s discussion of genetic disorders and related ethical dilemmas, author Rebecca Steynberg introduces the risks and opportunities of gene-editing technologies. Finally, author Claire Ramsay offers a unique perspective of women’s health in female athletes, following tennis player Naomi Osaka as she contemplates risking her career for her mental well-being. Readers interested in exploring more cases, instead following women in justice and politics, should refer to Issue 2.

It was an honor and rewarding adventure to serve as this year’s editor. I hope the reader finds these stories as intriguing and thought-provoking as I do.

Sincerely,  
Zoe Friese  
Newcomb Scholar  
Class of 2024