

## Letter from the Editor

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the third volume of the Tulane Undergraduate Research Journal. This edition marks the first publication in six years for us, as well as the first time being published by Office of Undergraduate Research staff, interns, and student volunteers. The first two editions of the TURJ were published by Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching, and we thank them for allowing us to renew this effort of publishing outstanding and original undergraduate work.

The articles within this present volume truly showcase some of the most outstanding undergraduate research taking place today, both on Tulane campus and across the country. We have very new and insightful perspectives on the appropriation of indigenous artwork by Spanish colonists in Ecuador, Black abolitionist rhetoric in the Antebellum North, and the gender identity and personhood of people living in present-day Crete more than 4,000 years ago. One author consults the legislator memoirs found within the Louisiana Research Collection of Tulane University to make his argument, while another uses research and data to propose a new policy amendment regarding the State of Louisiana's treatment of children.

Each of these articles represent the cutting edge research the undergraduates of 2021 are currently engaged in. Not every undergraduate considers themselves a researcher until they graduate, and some never do. But let the new, original knowledge contained within this third volume serve as a testament that undergraduates can and do engage in research every day, and they deserve the consideration and critique of the entire research community.

This publication would not have been possible without the outstanding work of our student editorial team and managing editor. These students stuck together through the uncertain academic year, as well as the usual hiccups of spearheading a new project, to produce and edit a top-tier publication both in full and on time. So thank you to Alex, Abby, Zach, Lydia,

Sharhana, Karlene, Noelle, and especially our managing editor, Callie Belback. I wouldn't be writing these words without your combined effort this past fall and spring.

In fellowship,

Andrew Squitiro, M.F.A.

Editor-in-Chief, Tulane Undergraduate Research Journal

Office of Undergraduate Research