

# OUR Journal: ODU Undergraduate Research Journal

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## From the Editor

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Dear Readers,

“Is undergraduate research getting even better?” The reviewers and I found ourselves asking this question in the preparation of this issue of *OUR Journal*. Now, in the final stages of publication, I still can’t help but find the scope of knowledge that students have either consumed or created both enriching and humbling.

This feeling does not go away as I review the tens of thousands of downloads that *OUR Journal* publications have received. What is more, as I recently discovered the extent to which these works are being Tweeted and Retweeted and have even been cited in academic publications, I find myself asking a new question: is this “undergraduate research” or is it simply “research”?

Regardless of the label we use, it’s quality scholarship, and I can’t help being impressed with what ODU students can do if they are given the opportunity. This year, I was pleased not only by our students’ professionalism throughout the editing and revising process but also by the sheer relevancy of their work. These articles and reviews approach cutting-edge issues that matter deeply to our students and our world today. To name a few, our students have explored the depths of racism in our American schools, as well as the surprising possibility that not all urban schools with lower socioeconomic averages lack access to high-quality software. Other students have examined the extent to which apps like Tinder have redefined dating and our notions of intimacy itself. Still others have evaluated the relatively unexplored regions of identity in celebrity fandom and the positive or negative impact of participatory culture on the individual.

But this list of subjects is just scratching the surface! Take some time to explore this issue and accept, as these undergraduates have, the challenge to dig deeper with regard to the pressing issues of our day.

Best,



Ethan Forrest Ross  
Editor