

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

We are thrilled to present the second issue of the Cornell Undergraduate Research Journal (CURJ). CURJ is Cornell's peer-reviewed bi-annual research publication featuring the exemplary scholarly work of Cornell undergraduates across all disciplines and fields. The goal of this publication is to provide a platform for Cornell undergraduate students to showcase their research articles to the student body and to the general public, and offer the student body a wide range of academic perspectives, provoking intellectual pursuits and collaboration.

As we publish our second issue, this is a good time to reflect on the release of our first issue. I am happy to say that our first issue was a success. We accomplished our goal of publishing research papers of Cornell undergraduates across a wide range of disciplines with each article undergoing an extensive review process. We received lots of positive feedback and heard from many individuals who read the issue, commented on the articles, and discussed them with their peers. As an anecdote, once several members of the editorial team and I met a student at a fair. When he found out that we were working on CURJ, he told us that he read our first issue and disagrees with the premise of one of the articles, and explained his views on the matter. I was thrilled to hear this. This is exactly why we established this journal. Our goal is not only to share research articles, but also to provoke intellectual discussions and debates, to start dialogue among Cornell's research community, and to inspire more research that will ultimately advance knowledge even further.

I would like to thank our amazing, passionate, and hard-working team. This past year our team has been working relentlessly at building this publication from the ground up and has risen to the many challenges along the way. We welcomed new members to our team this Fall who have already greatly contributed to this issue. We are lucky to have such a skillful and dedicated team.

Thank you as well to our authors for their fantastic work on their research articles and to our graduate student reviewers and faculty advisors for their insightful feedback and contributions that have greatly enriched this publication. We would also like to thank Mike Priehs of the Cornell University Library for hosting and supporting our journal. And of course we would like to express our gratitude to Ellen Hartman, Research Communications Director of Cornell Research and our organization's advisor, without whom this publications would not have been possible.

We are very excited to share this second issue of the Cornell Undergraduate Research Journal and to present the exceptional research of Cornell undergraduates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Alkin". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Victoria Alkin  
Founder and Editor-In-Chief