

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

We are incredibly thrilled to present the third 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.

This is a bittersweet letter for me to write, as I am graduating this May and this will be my last Letter from the Editor as the Editor-In-Chief of the Cornell Undergraduate Research Journal. I remember how two and half years ago, the idea of this journal seemed so far away and difficult to achieve. The amount of work to create this journal seemed at the time never-ending, and we had to do everything from scratch, from branding, to designing legal processes and forms, to creating processes for article submission and peer review, to financing the journal, to setting up DOIs and ISSNs, to creating the design and layout of the journals, to printing and publishing. Now, our third issue is being released and we have published many articles in these three issues showcasing the exceptional research of undergraduates across a variety of fields. The Cornell Undergraduate Research Journal is operating smoothly from issue to issue, with an amazing team working on it, and I could not be more grateful and delighted with how it has turned out.

All of this has been possible due to our fantastic CURJ team. Building this journal from the ground up required a lot of very difficult work, but our team has worked relentlessly and has risen to the many challenges along the way. I may be graduating and leaving Cornell, but I know that CURJ is in the hands of an incredibly passionate, hard-working, and skillful team and I am positive that they will continue the legacy of this journal for many years to come. I look forward to reading the new CURJ issues each semester and to being CURJ's most enthusiastic fan.

We would like to thank our authors for their exceptional work on their research articles and 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 Prihs 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 publication would not have been possible.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Alkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victoria Alkin
Founder and Editor-In-Chief