

Letter from the Editor

Dear reader,

We are very excited to present the fourth issue of the Cornell Undergraduate Research Journal (CURJ). CURJ is Cornell's peer-reviewed bi-annual publication of exemplary research work done by undergraduates across many disciplines. Our goal is to give all students the opportunity to showcase their work to their peers and to the general public, foster intellectual discussion and collaboration, and provide a wide range of academic perspectives.

This semester has been particularly exciting for us. With our former editor-in-chief's graduation, many members of our staff who have long been dedicated to CURJ are now leaders on our team, working hard to make the journal the best it can be. Additionally, this semester came with an influx of new members, many of them freshman, passionate about what we do and with the skills and new ideas needed to keep pushing CURJ forward. These changes did not come without challenges, but we are very proud of the team we have built, and their ability to meet any challenge head-on.

CURJ has always focused on ensuring the Cornell community can learn about various subjects. From the efficacy of masks on particle dispersion, inaccessibility online, to metabolic enzyme functions, this issue is amongst our most diverse. All of our manuscripts shine a light on the importance of disseminating information that students with all interests can learn from. To turn the page and be transported from the world of invertebrates to how disabilities are not accommodated in a digital world presents a novel outlook on the world around us. What has always made us proud of CURJ is the dedication of graduate reviewers and faculty advisors who bring the hard work of each Cornell student's unique manuscript to the forefront. Leading the ever growing teams that stitch these subjects together has been a pleasure and hopefully brings CURJ one step closer to the club that our founder, Victoria Alkin, wanted it to become.

This journal is only possible due to the diligent work of all the student researchers that have submitted their projects to CURJ. Many students participate in research at Cornell, but the amount of time and effort that goes into completing an independent project is an amazing accomplishment that only so many can achieve. In addition to giving thanks to our staff members that have been working for weeks to develop the Fall 2023 issue, we would also like to applaud each student that submitted their work for publication this semester. The primary purpose of CURJ is to highlight these projects and publish them for a greater audience to see, and none of that would have been possible without the contribution of our student researchers.

We are delighted to share the fourth issue of the Cornell Undergraduate Research Journal and hope you enjoy reading the edition as much as we enjoyed making it.

Sincerely,

Chris Cizmeciyan

Minji Kim

Connor Rosenthal

