

Letter from the Editors

Dear reader,

We are excited to present the fifth issue of the Cornell Undergraduate Research Journal (CURJ). CURJ is Cornell's peer-reviewed bi-annual publication of exemplary research work from undergraduates across many disciplines. We aim to allow all students to showcase their work to their peers and the general public, foster intellectual discussion and collaboration, and provide a range of academic perspectives.

Due to logistical challenges we faced last semester, we were unable to publish an issue, but we are back with a new publication. 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 freshmen who are passionate about what we do while sharing new ideas essential for pushing CURJ forward. These changes did not come without challenges, but we are very proud of the team we have built, and their persistence to weather any storm.

In addition to giving thanks to our staff members who have been working for months to develop the Fall 2024 issue, we would also like to applaud each student who submitted their work for publication in this issue. This journal is only possible due to the diligent work of all the student researchers who have submitted their projects to CURJ. The primary purpose of CURJ is to highlight these projects and publish them for a greater audience to see. It would not have been possible without the contribution of Cornell's undergraduate researchers. Furthermore, the dedication of graduate reviewers and faculty advisors who bring the hard work of each Cornell student's unique manuscript to the forefront must be mentioned. Leading the ever-growing teams that stitch these subjects together has been a pleasure and hopefully brings CURJ one step closer to the vision of our founder, Victoria Alkin.

CURJ has always focused on ensuring the Cornell community can learn about research across all subjects. This issue spans diverse topics from redefining health through cross-cultural lenses to observing how algal blooms affect food safety. Our manuscripts highlight the importance of disseminating information that students with all interests can learn from.

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

Sincerely,



Isaac Chang



Irene Hwang