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Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

I am proud to introduce you to the third edition of the *SMU Journal of Undergraduate Research*, or *JoUR*. This year, we've not only transitioned to a new editor-in-chief, but also to a new distribution system. We've gone digital.

Thanks to the Central University Libraries, the journal will now live on SMU Scholar, open for everyone to read and download. The transition hasn't been easy, but the new system allows for a better tracking system, an easier submissions experience, and a smoother peer-review process. We hope that the digital system will connect students to the outside world and create a more organized central structure.

Our goal this year was to increase submissions and the name of the journal. We've accomplished both goals, increasing submissions by 38% - a joint advertising effort between the Honors Research Association and Office of Undergraduate Research. We're also very proud that our subjects are from a variety of disciplines. Running the gamut from fashion to biology, our journal is becoming more and more inclusive. This year, our peer-review process has included input from professors. All of the papers in this journal have undergone scrutiny from faculty that work in the researched field, ensuring the quality of our submissions.

Moving forward, we'd like to focus on receiving more submissions from the liberal arts as an effort to educate students in all the possibilities. We're also planning on growing larger internally and creating a better records-keeping system. The past is the best teacher and by keeping better records, we can allow our successors a better transition.

I hope you enjoy your read, and always feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or comments.

Best,



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