

Editor's Note

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Peer Review: The Undergraduate Research Journal of the Ethnography of the University Initiative* at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC).

The Ethnography of the University Initiative (EUI) promotes student research on universities and colleges as complex institutions. Based at the University of Illinois, EUI supports faculty from various disciplinary and methodological backgrounds to integrate original student research on universities and colleges into their courses through faculty development workshops, customized web environments, Institutional Review Board permissions, and bi-annual student conferences. In EUI-affiliated courses, students use a variety of ethnographic, archival, and related methods to examine the university in the broader context of our social and political times. At the end of each semester, students have the opportunity to contribute their work to the EUI collection in the U of I's digital repository, Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship (IDEALS). Now, as we launch our journal, students have a new outlet to highlight their work.

I want to thank Karen Rodriguez'G for her vision and professional leadership in the development of this journal. Her commitment to facilitating student growth, through research, is unmatched and an incredible asset to both her students and this journal. Thank you to our Advisory Board (Dr. Nancy Abelman, Merinda Hensley, and Karen Rodriguez'G). I would also like to thank Merinda Hensley for all of her technical support in developing and launching this open access journal as well as Elizabeth Morely in the Writing

Center for her wisdom and training of our editors. Publishing work is one of the most rewarding experiences for those involved in academic ventures but ensuring that one's work is available to the masses is evermore gratifying. Open access platforms afford authors the opportunity to share their work with the world, sans, the typical barriers of traditional publishing.

I also want to thank our managing editors (Marc Chua, Katrina Halfaker, Victoria Machen, Hannah Park, and Alanna Smart) for their tireless work in promoting the journal's call for papers and overseeing the editing process.

Our inaugural issue features two peer-reviewed articles, one multi-media project, and a reflection from a EUI faculty member. Margaret O'Connor examines accessibility issues at sororities and highlights the limitations of temporary accessibility accommodations typically made during recruitment. Cecilia Montesdeoca, student at Illinois State University (ISU), examines ISU's student health agenda and suggests that despite links between student health and academics, student health is taken for granted. In their multi-media project, Shaunette Smith, Fatima Diabate, and Ariella Cohen explore the experiences of LGBTQ students as they engage in different social spaces across campus. And finally, Dr. Siobhan Somerville, an associate professor at UIUC, reflects on her experiences teaching EUI courses.

I hope that you enjoy our inaugural issue of *Peer Review*.

T. Jameson Brewer
Senior Editor