

## LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD

I am delighted to welcome readers to the 2019 issue of *Re:Search: The Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal at the University of Illinois*. This is the sixth volume of the journal, and features an especially wide range of interesting articles from across the literary and fine arts, including film, opera, and painting. The journal is produced by an undergraduate editorial board, primarily English majors, which receives student authors' proposals, coordinates student peer review, supports authors through their writing process, and then draws other students in again to edit and format the essays. Faculty members serve as mentors for the individual authors, and Professor Lori Newcomb, the journal's faculty advisor, guides the executive board and authors throughout the year.

*Re:Search* is a key part of a departmental and campus-wide effort to promote research by undergraduates. Students who contribute to the journal in major roles earn credit toward the Undergraduate Research Certificate offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research. Papers published in the journal have also been presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Work on the journal also give students experiences in collaboration and communication that they can bring to their future employment in any field.

Illinois undergraduates who contribute their time and effort to the process of publishing research essays engage new ideas at a high level. The English majors driving the journal learn that publication requires tremendous teamwork among scholars, editors, and reviewers. It is a pleasure to introduce a volume that represents both the high quality of undergraduate research being conducted on our campus, and our majors' leading role in sharing that research.

**Vicki Mahaffey**

*Kirkpatrick Professor and Head of the Department of English*