

# Papers & Publications: Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Research

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2021

## Forematter

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**Papers & Publications**  
Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Research

**2021**  
**VOLUME 8**  
**PART 1**

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## Letters from the Editors in Chief

To share one's research findings or creative work is a brave act. The students whose work is included in this volume not only undertook a project in their chosen discipline, but they also demonstrated courage through the act of sharing their work. We applaud them and their considerable accomplishments.

During the myriad difficulties presented by the pandemic during the last year, we have all learned new ways to carry on with our research and creative activities, our teaching and learning. In the midst of these unprecedented challenges, our student contributors have engaged in research, creative activity, and scholarship that grapples with a wide range of concerns, from the significance of microscopic contents of insects' digestive tracts, and their potential impact on our ecosystem, to communities' perceptions of police. Creative works range from a memoir that shares a student's experiences with racial identity through the sorority recruitment process to a sculpture that pushes boundaries of 2D and 3D space. We recognize not only the outstanding contributions of the undergraduate researchers and artists included in this journal, but also their faculty mentors, who provided support and guidance to each of these students.

In this year of changes, we have also experienced change in our team at *Papers & Publications (P&P)*. I want to express my great gratitude to Dr. Leigh Dillard for her vision, leadership, expertise, and commitment as she has overseen the publication process of *P&P* for the past six years. I am fortunate to have recently joined the *P&P* team as Dr. Dillard's Coeditor in Chief, and I am excited to announce that Dr. Dillard, although stepping down from her role as Editor in Chief, will continue her invaluable contributions as Design Editor. I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Dillard and with Dr. Anastasia Lin, who is continuing her leadership and expert contributions in the role of Managing Editor. We are indebted to the founding Editor in Chief, Dr. Miriam Segura-Totten, for her exemplary leadership throughout the first four volumes of *P&P*, and we seek to carry on this legacy of excellence.

In addition, I want to express my appreciation to the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities at UNG, directed by Dr. Lin. Finally, the excellent work of our Editorial Board is central to the process of each issue's publication, and I am extremely grateful to each member of the board for their time, energy, and superb work.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and my esteemed co-Editor, I am pleased to present *Papers & Publications: Volume 8, Part 1*. We will be excited to share Part 2 this summer.



Kathryn Quinto Garcia, PhD  
Editor in Chief  
Fellowships Advisor

**Kathryn Quinto Garcia, PhD**  
*University of North Georgia*



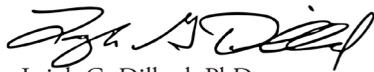
## Letters from the Editors in Chief

This past year has brought unprecedented challenges to nearly every facet of our lives. From the workplace to the classroom and from public to private spaces, we have witnessed worldwide adjustments to our mere existence. Pedagogies have shifted by necessity, and in no small way, the work that students have been able to produce has been affected by cancelled research trips, closed labs and campus spaces, and the transition to virtual, socially distanced learning.

Despite the many obstacles of the past year, the addition of Dr. Kathryn Quinto to the *Papers & Publications* editorial team has been most welcome. With her help, we seek a return to normalcy, offering an outstanding and varied selection of undergraduate research and creative works in part one of this volume.

As the current collection attests, students and the faculty mentors who support them continue to engage with the most compelling issues of our present time. Regardless of disciplinary focus, they ask tough questions, casting a critical eye on a myriad of subjects. From my new position as Design Editor, I look forward to seeing the ways in which such thoughtful and inquisitive student voices respond to our present circumstances in the volumes to come.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Editor in Chief of this journal for the past six years. I am confident that with Dr. Quinto's knowledge of and enthusiasm for undergraduate research, *P&P* is in very good hands.



Leigh G. Dillard, PhD  
Editor in Chief  
Associate Professor of English

**Leigh G. Dillard, PhD**  
*University of North Georgia*

