

# Papers & Publications: Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Research

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Volume 5

Article 2

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2016

## Forematter

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### Recommended Citation

Dillard, Leigh G. (2016) "Forematter," *Papers & Publications: Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Research*: Vol. 5 , Article 2.  
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/papersandpubs/vol5/iss1/2>

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

**2016**  
**VOLUME 5**

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Published by:  
University of North Georgia  
Dahlonega, Georgia

Printing Support by:  
Interstate Graphics, Inc.  
Johnson City, Tennessee

Cover art: Juan J. Garces, Maleiwa (Creation)  
Cover Design: Julianne M. Reynolds

ISSN: 2325-2502

Printed in the United States of America, 2016  
For more information, please visit: <http://www.ung.edu/curca>  
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# Letter from the Managing Editor

Anastasia Lin, PhD  
*University of North Georgia*

Over the last five years, *Papers & Publications* has served the southeastern region as an outlet for outstanding undergraduate students in any discipline to publish peer-reviewed manuscripts. Over these five years, the journal has also grown and shifted. *Papers and Pub(lication)s*, as it was originally denoted, was founded in 2012 by the former North Georgia College and State University. In 2013, the University of North Georgia was founded through the consolidation of NGCSU and the former Gainesville State College. This consolidation has led to many exciting new opportunities through the combined strengths of these two former universities. *Papers & Publications* is no exception.

As Managing Editor for *Papers & Publications* and director for the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (CURCA), it is my pleasure to introduce Volume 5 of the journal as well as to introduce our new Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Leigh Dillard, assistant professor of English at UNG. Dr. Dillard brings a wealth of experience in current publishing and graphic design trends to the project, and her own scholarly work focuses on eighteenth-century print culture. *Papers & Publications* also remains indebted to the work of Miriam Segura-Totten, founding Editor-In-Chief of the journal, who remains a key resource and reviewer. We are also grateful for the pioneering work of B.J. Robinson and the UNG Press for supporting the first four volumes of the journal. Allison Galloup, a long-time *Papers & Publications* board member, has also taken over as Digital Content Editor.

Each volume of *Papers & Publications* continues to build and improve on the last, and this year is no exception. The student work showcased here underscores the increasing diversity of both content area and student home university. In the current issue, the articles cover a broad range of subjects from Engineering to British Literature, Biology to the cross-disciplinary field of Literary Cartography. In addition, student authors hail from around the southeastern region and include one international author who completed research while on study abroad in the U.S. The caliber and diversity of these submissions speak to the importance of offering a journal for the exceptional research and creative work of students in our region.

In her inaugural letter introducing *Papers & Publications*, founding editor-in-chief Totten wrote: “Our mission in creating this journal was twofold: to provide a forum for young minds to showcase the fruits of their creative and scholarly work, and to give students the experience of going through the process of peer review.” That mission has not changed; rather, we hope with this edition to show that we have intensified our focus on providing a forum to celebrate scholarly exchange and academic excellence. I invite you to peruse the current volume and to engage with our student authors’ pursuits of innovation, creativity, problem solving, and meaning-making. Thank you for your interest in celebrating and supporting these students.



Anastasia Lin, PhD  
Managing Editor  
Assistant Dean of Student Research and Scholarship  
Associate Professor of English

## Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

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

Undergraduate research is a popular phrase in academia at present. More than a trend, however, this growing practice affords new challenges to students and faculty alike. Conference presentations and academic publications were reserved for the select few in my undergraduate years; while the process is still selective, I am encouraged by the movement toward more avenues for presentation and publication and increasing institutional support for students across disciplines wishing to engage in these opportunities.

I am honored to begin my tenure as Editor-in-Chief of *Papers & Publications*, following in the astute leadership of past Editor-in-Chief Miriam Segura-Totten, who showed a commitment to undergraduate research through her supervision of the first four volumes. This venture would also not be possible without the ongoing support of Dr. Anastasia Lin and the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities at the University of North Georgia (CURCA). I am equally grateful to my colleagues, both at the University of North Georgia and beyond, who agreed to serve as editors and reviewers for this issue. Likewise, the faculty mentors of the students represented here deserve recognition for their encouragement and patience in creating classroom environments that reward inquisitiveness and problem solving.

The breadth of the essays presented in this volume is little surprise given our interdisciplinary focus, yet the contributions of these authors are united in their engagement in current topics and research methodologies. From pedagogical concerns in the field of nursing and technology enhancements in drone technology to discussions of European economic policy, literary cartography, and literary analysis, these essays reveal the viability of student-driven contributions to the academic conversation.

As I look to the future of this journal, I am encouraged by the opportunities it presents, chances to continue fostering and celebrating the critical efforts of undergraduate students in a way that provides them a taste of academic publishing. It is with great pleasure that I present this fifth volume of *Papers & Publications* to recognize the work of these promising young scholars with hopes that others will be similarly inspired.



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

