

Across the Bridge: The Merrimack Undergraduate Research Journal

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Introduction

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Introduction

Caroline Bradley

There is such strong and true power that comes from a group of people working together to lay the foundation for something remarkable. In my four years at Merrimack College, this institution had always given me the opportunity to follow whatever path I wanted to take, knowing my ideas would be met with support. I became more involved than I would have ever thought, yet I still never had the chance to help create something I truly valued. However, I did not know that the greatest project I would take on would be by accident, when I was just asked by Dr. Robert Koch, my boss at Merrimack's Writing Center, if I wanted to get more involved with publishing and research at Merrimack. Before I knew it, both students and faculty were showing interest in this endeavor, and the first meeting of *Across the Bridge* took place, where I volunteered to serve as Editor-in-Chief. I had no experience in publishing or leading a group, but in my time helping the new research journal reach this first volume publication, I have learned how to be a better leader and team member. This text is the product of not just one person, but a group of hardworking individuals with a common goal in enriching and highlighting Merrimack student research. Besides myself, the students who took part in the process of creating this journal worked as a team, gaining knowledge in publishing and skills in communicating with faculty members and interested parties. Our faculty and staff advisors helped lead us toward achieving a strong journal that will showcase the bright ideas of Merrimack College undergraduates.

The process of creating *Across the Bridge* was a team effort. All of us students had never undertaken a process like this before, where it was us at the forefront, planning, communicating and editing. We were making something from scratch that could greatly impact Merrimack research standards. Research for undergraduates would no longer be to achieve a good grade, or try and get published in journals outside this institution. They now had the opportunity to be rewarded with being published by their school, and more importantly, by their peers. In the beginning, it was an idea to get students and faculty involved in the process of publishing and to highlight Merrimack work, but now that this first edition is being published, the hard work and

dedication to achieve this must be thanked. In the end, we must highlight the students who contributed to this process. They created new ideas that have brought this journal to where it is today.

Each committee had an important part in creating this journal. The Construction Committee and Arts & Advertising Committee, comprised of Tori, Rachel, and Jessica got the process started, getting inspiration for the journal's overall look and submission process. They made an idea concrete, and then the Review Committee comprised of Kesha, Brett, and Meghan took in the submissions to start seeing what students had researched. After reviewing, the Consulting Committee of Melissa and Tom communicated with students to help them attain the standards created by the undergraduate research journal. The Editing Committee, Maria and myself, finalized this work into what it is now. Each student's hard work and dedication shows in this journal. And most importantly, we offer much thanks to the undergraduate contributors. This vision would not have been achieved if not for them.

Finally, we must thank the faculty and staff. Michaela and Rob were amazing mentors to me, with Michaela taking on the huge task of tech work. Also, Stephanie, Chris, and Rory provided amazing feedback to help strengthen *Across the Bridge* and help it achieve heights I could not imagine. Dan put the final seal on with his skills in graphic design, and I also must thank the faculty who assisted with the student submissions, helping them write and edit.

Please enjoy this first edition of *Across the Bridge* and the student research presented here. We are taking submissions for next year, so please visit our website for more information: scholarworks.merrimack.edu/atb. Also, if you are interested in joining the publishing team, email us at acrossthebridge@merrimack.edu.