The University of California Riverside’s Undergraduate Research Journal features our undergraduates’ scholarly research and creative work across the curriculum. This publication illustrates how UC Riverside’s academic culture nurtures such skills as effective communication, collaboration with peers and mentors, and the academic pursuit of new knowledge and understanding.

We recognize and believe that when students engage in research and creative activities under the guidance of a faculty mentor, their learning process is significantly enhanced, and students develop skills and attitudes that will be used throughout their lifetime no matter what career they may choose. Hence fostering undergraduate research is a vital component of our academic enterprise – and I am exceedingly proud of the work published here.

I invite you to read, peruse, or just take in these samples from the best of our undergraduate students’ work, and I applaud our students’ efforts in publishing this year’s Undergraduate Research Journal!

Jane Conoley
Interim Chancellor

You hold in your hands the seventh annual UC Riverside Undergraduate Research Journal. It provides a selective, peer-reviewed venue featuring the very best faculty-mentored undergraduate research and scholarship on our campus. The peer-review process has been very ably led by our Student Editorial Board, with advice as needed from the Faculty Advisory Board. I would like to thank Veronique Rorive, our director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, for able and timely organizational work that helped to bring this inspiring journal to fruition. Thanks also to Nancy Kameya who assisted in this work.

I want to congratulate the young scholars whose work appears here in. The process of discovery can be filled with excitement but also with frustration, as we search for the golden threads that tie together the ideas we have been pursuing and the findings that have emerged from our work. During this process, we travel a path that no one has been on before. The journal article is the culmination of that process—a formal presentation to our community of peers and mentors of what we found on that journey. Place this volume on your bookshelf. Pull it down occasionally from the shelf to re-read and to remind yourself of the journey you traveled. I wish you many more such journeys in the future.

Best regards,

Steven G. Brint
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Sociology