

Editors' Introduction

Shreyas Rane, Editor-in-Chief

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The Honors College at Rutgers University-Camden is delighted to introduce its inaugural edition of *The Undergraduate Review*, an academic journal by the students, for the students. *The Undergraduate Review* provides an exciting platform for the students to publish their academic and creative work and to get noticed by thousands of their fellow campus members and the staff and faculty at Rutgers University-Camden.

For a journal to be truly “interdisciplinary,” it is important that it represents every shade of scholarship which the university offers. *The Undergraduate Review*'s editorial team and its faculty advisors have worked for several months to achieve this goal and to include the best possible student submissions which are not only highly regarded by the respective faculty, but also represent the diversity of student research and creative work at Rutgers University-Camden.

The first edition of the journal includes work across all disciplines. Among the cohort are four fiction pieces: “The Line Between Boys and Men” by Marcel Martinez, “FORCED” by Shannon Moran, “A sea is not a sea” by Emily Winters and Jennifer Le’s “Long Division.” Martinez’s poem explores the generational quality of toxic masculinity. Moran’s poem is a powerful critique of society’s expectations for women, from the pressure to look a certain way to how women are expected to act. Winters’ poem is a vividly-described, articulate expression of the uncertainty of love. Le’s short story “Long Division,” describes the muted frustration of a man meeting his half-sister—the product of his father’s affair.

There are five research papers included among the work. Caitlyn Kliniewski, Angela Jonasz, and Brianna Magana

provide a compelling survey study entitled, “Why Play College Athletics?—The Motivations Behind Male vs Female Rutgers-Camden Student Athletics.” Using athletes at Rutgers University-Camden as a sample size, they examine the motivations behind Division III athletes’ decision to play collegiate sports. Tyler Burgese’s cross-sectional study, “#Instagay: The Uses and Gratifications of Photo-Based Social Networking for Gay Men,” identifies patterns in photos posted by members of the gay community on social media platforms like Instagram.

Nitan Shanas’s “Photogenic Power: A Brief Analysis of Iconic Depictions of Political Power” analyzes two contemporary and iconic photos in terms of Steven Luke’s three-dimensional model of power and explains how the photos’ subjects represent the model. Victoria Wroblewski’s “Agency and the Successful Fabliau” examines the role of women in Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales* and their ability to exert power over their own lives. Julia Defeo, Michael R. Gallagher, and Katie Malcolm were able to delve into the direct effects of fire burns on the New Jersey’s fauna in their paper “Effects of prescribed burns on litter decomposition and microarthropod communities in New Jersey pinelands.”

Among the articles are three persuasive pieces and one film analysis. Beyoncé Carty’s literature review entitled “Is Solitary Confinement Useful?” explores the effects of short- and long-term effects of solitary confinement on prisoners and argues for prisons to revise their use of the practice. William Huang’s “Opinion Piece on China’s Belt Road Initiative” examines the influence China has on the international community through its Belt Road Initiative and argues that it is merely a prelude to rising global power. Molly Rollins delves deep into the problems with the horse racing industry and creates a compelling argument for making the industry safer for horses in her essay “A Battle to the Wire: The controversy over horse racing and how the industry

can move forward into the future.” Natalie DiSandro’s film analysis “Aronofsky’s ‘Take on Horror’” discusses the use of surrealism, paranoia, and an unreliable narrator in Darren Aronofsky’s work to create psychological horror films.

On the front cover of the journal is the photograph “Lights in the Park, 2020” by Jagjit Chauhan. The photograph captures lights wrapped around the branches of a tree in Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia. On the back cover is Elis Moustafa’s photograph “Light at the End of the Tunnel” which focuses on a hanging light with light coming in through the ceiling window behind it in the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. Explanations of the photos and biographies of the photographers can be found at the end of the journal.

Rutgers University–Camden is home to award-winning, innovative, creative, and distinguished undergraduate students. Needless to say, we thank all the students who have taken the time to submit their work and have revised them upon our request. We would like to give special appreciation to our faculty advisors who have made the first edition of this journal possible: Dr. Lee Ann Westman, Director of the Honors College and Brian Everett, Assistant Dean of the Honors College. As a reader, we hope that you enjoy every article and gain a little insight in our small yet inspiring world of Rutgers University-Camden. This journal is a testament to the ambition of our students and will hopefully continue to recognize their hard work for years to come. Get noticed; be remembered.