

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to welcome you to the third volume of the Journal of Undergraduate Social Work Research (JUSWR). This journal is a collaborative effort involving students, faculty and staff. Undergraduate peer editors were highly involved and instrumental in selecting, editing, and submitting recommendations for articles to be accepted for publication. As Senior Editor, Rebecca Dohleman Hawley once again did a remarkable job of working closely with the editorial board to provide expert guidance through the publication process. Faculty members generously gave their time and effort to mentor students on research and writing. As Undergraduate Research Program Coordinator for the School of Social Work, I continued to approach my role as Advisory Board Member with excitement and a genuine commitment to the JUSWR's success. The entire team worked energetically and with determination to bring the third volume of the JUSWR to fruition.

The Journal of Undergraduate Social Work Research was published for the first time in the spring of 2017. The journal is now in the third year of publication, and for the first time since our inaugural issue, there will be two issues published this year. Volume 3, issue no.1 will be available in October. Volume 3, issue no.2 will be published in December.

The JUSWR, the School of Social Work, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign maintain the original aim to support undergraduate research and scholarly activities. Student opportunities range from serving as a member of a faculty directed research team to the pursuit of their own line of inquiry. Some students elect to submit original creative works that reflect aspects of their richly textured and varied cultural backgrounds or experiences viewed through their own particular cultural lens. Additionally, students may choose from options to author a manuscript for publication, serve as a peer editor, or present their work at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. Others elect to receive credit toward the Undergraduate Research Certificate Program offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research. All of the students make scholarly contributions that strengthen vulnerable populations and provide needed support, as well as further advance the awareness and appreciation of our highly diverse and ever evolving social world.

I am pleased to announce the third volume of the Journal of Undergraduate Social Work Research. The JUSWR provides clear and convincing evidence of the high quality of undergraduate social work research and various other formats contributing to the shared knowledge which permeates the School of Social Work as well as the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Sincerely,

Janet D. Carter-Black, PhD  
Teaching Professor  
BSW Program Director  
School of Social Work