

EDITOR'S NOTE

It is my honor to introduce you to the second edition of *Re:Search, the Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal* here at the University of Illinois. This year, the Executive Board endeavored to extend our journal's core vision from not only to producing an exceptional final product but also to engaging as many students (and faculty) in the process of researching, editing, and publishing. We continued to recruit student peer reviewers and copy editors, whose critical eyes have been instrumental to ensuring articles of the best quality. New for this year's edition, we integrated faculty-led workshops to guide the authors in their research and writing processes. Lori Humphrey Newcomb and Harriett Green each coordinated and facilitated a workshop dedicated, respectively, to drafting an argumentative thesis and to honing research methods. It is worth noting the exciting developments in the platforms circulating this work and our increasingly wider audience—our online version of the journal is now searchable on Google Scholar, the University Library Catalog, and in IDEALS (Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship). A valuable feature of this journal is that all students involved in *Re:Search*, especially our Executive Board, are gaining valuable skills in leadership, critical thinking, and editing—a skill set that will prove indispensable in any professional setting.

This journal exists largely due to the reliable guidance and care of our Faculty Advisor, Lori Humphrey Newcomb. Lori, thank you for demonstrating with and to us that our ambitions can indeed be such stuff as dreams are made on. This year, Alaina Pincus joined our team as our Graduate Advisor; her prior experience in publishing proved very useful in our copy editing stage and in training our student copy editors. The continued support of Michael Rothberg, Head of the English Department, which you can all see in his contribution to this year's journal in the Note from the Department Head, speaks volumes to the collaborative effort to enable undergraduate research in the humanities at this university. Merinda Hensley from the University Library deserves thanks for her services in training us in the online platform, Open Journal Systems. Harriett Green—we treasure your unblinking willingness to offer your expertise as the English and Digital Humanities Librarian, especially attending our informational sessions. I cannot forget to recognize the quick and efficient help that Anna

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Trammell, a student in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, gave us in times of technological troubles. The support of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dale Bauer, for organizing a panel for the Undergraduate Research Symposium, which allowed us to share our work with a range of students and faculty. Many thanks to the English Advising Office, including Anna Ivy, Kristine McCoskey, Angela Smith, and Kirstin Wilcox, each of whom has made a concerted effort to share opportunities to participate in the journal with the undergraduate student body and prospective Illinois students.

This issue of the journal features five articles, peer-reviewed and copy-edited by undergraduate students and guided under faculty mentorship. These articles engage with a variety of scholars, ranging from literary critics on Joyce, Shakespeare, and Orwell to philosophers of phenomenology such as Hegel and Merleau-Ponty, while offering original insights on its selected primary texts. It is evident, as you will see, that these authors have transitioned from students to autonomous thinkers and scholars in their own right.

The evolution of this journal, in just a short two years since this project was conceived, astounds me in the best way; most profoundly in witnessing how this organization brings faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students into the fold, an accomplishment that at least to my knowledge is unprecedented in the humanities here at Illinois. I consider this journal a project produced collectively, and I look forward with great anticipation to the ways that this thriving organization and publication will continue to evolve—I encourage you all as readers to also follow along. With the utmost pleasure, I welcome you to the second edition of *Re:Search, the Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal!*

Nick Millman
Editor in Chief and Founder