

Dear Reader,

First of all, thank you for taking the time to look at the first issue of *Steeplechase*, Murray State University's undergraduate and graduate research journal!

Our goal for this journal is to show all sides of the research process, from the initial curiosity to the final, published article. Coming to Murray as a freshman a few years ago, I only vaguely had an idea of what the research process entailed. I was definitely curious about pursuing certain topics, but, frankly, I was intimidated by how much work might have to go into creating a final, professional product based on those curiosities.

Steeplechase really strives to pull back the veil on the general research process and make the idea of research accessible to students of any level and field here at Murray State. In this first issue, you'll see completed scholarly articles by some of our upperclassmen and graduate students from our different academic colleges, as well as interviews with students who are both working on or have completed research. Hopefully, the stories of their experiences with undergraduate research will show that, while there are certainly highs and lows, engaging in student research is both rewarding and attainable.

We think that the student works we're showcasing for our first issue really highlight the wonderful research work being done at our university. These student researchers have gone above and beyond in their fields, from following their curiosities to presenting their work at Murray State's Scholars Week. We hope you'll take the time to read through these articles and learn more about our student researchers through our audio and written interviews.

Special thanks to our student submitters, faculty reviewers, excellent student editors, and everyone working with the Office of Research and Creative Activity for making this journal possible. It's not easy to build something from the ground up, and I appreciate everyone's hard work and valuable input!

Thanks for reading,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Wood
Editor-in-Chief