Managing Editor’s Note

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A Message from the Managing Editor

I would like to welcome you to the ninth volume of the Binghamton University Undergraduate Journal. It is with great pleasure and excitement that we bring forth this edition, marking a significant milestone in the history of our publication. This journal, formerly known as Alpenglow, was created by the External Scholarships and Undergraduate Research Center office in 2015 and continued to run until 2022. After a period of dormancy, we are thrilled to celebrate the revival of this journal, which serves as a platform for showcasing the rigorous work of our undergraduate students. As Managing Editor, I am honored to be a part of this revitalization and to have the opportunity to present the research and academic achievements of our contributors.

The decision to bring back this journal came about at the end of the Spring 2023 semester. The director of our office, Dr. Steve Ortiz, asked what I would like my role in the office to be. I was completely unsure, but I started by asking myself: What does the office need, but doesn't have? This line of questioning only continued until I realized that an opportunity I was previously granted by our office was, at that time, not being offered. The journal had gone on hiatus that semester and students did not have the opportunity to publish their work. I knew immediately that reviving this journal was exactly what I wanted to do.

The revival of this journal, and my eagerness to do so, was at first sparked by my own experience of being published within these pages. As a first-generation college student, being published in this journal became a sentimental experience that I reflect on often. However, as I began to prepare for this year's cycle, my motivation began to extend far beyond my sentiment towards these pages, and beyond the concept of opportunity as well. Resurrecting this journal stems from my desire to foster an environment where research is not only encouraged but celebrated. There are brilliant minds on this campus whose insight deserves to be heard. It is my hope that in the coming years, this journal will continue to exist as a platform for students to showcase their hard work, their creativity, and their belief that what they're doing matters.

The essays presented in this journal are the fruits of the labor of the talented researchers here at Binghamton. For our ninth volume, topics range from scientific inquiry to architecture to an analysis of historic art paint pigments. The diversity of these essays is a testament to the intellectual curiosity and ingenuity that resides on this campus and how it knows no bounds. Through countless hours of meticulous research, analysis, and writing, these undergraduate students have demonstrated not only their exceptional capabilities but also their commitment to enriching our academic community. With that being said, I and the External Scholarships and Undergraduate Research Center office would like to congratulate the students published in this volume and wish them good luck in their respective fields.
I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of this journal, including our dedicated editorial team, faculty advisors, and, our esteemed authors. Your unwavering commitment has been instrumental in making the 2023-2024 *Binghamton University Undergraduate Journal* cycle a reality.

I would like to thank Dr. Beth Polzin for the countless hours she has spent with me in meetings, editing, and going over the new process of this journal. I would not have been able to do this without Dr. Polzin’s input.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dr. Steve Ortiz for not only allowing me to be the 2023-2024 Managing Editor but for believing in my ability to do the job.

Sydney Werner
*Managing Editor*

**Note:** In addition, I am excited to announce that we will be trying something new with this edition. Rather than waiting for the entire collection to be completed, we will be publishing student’s works on a rolling basis. This means that you can expect to see new pieces available on our website from the end of April through the beginning of May. Be sure to keep an eye on our website for the latest additions to the journal!