

Message from the Editors-in-Chief

Greetings, and welcome to the inaugural issue of JUST, the Journal of Undergraduate Studies at Trent!

JUST represents something very exciting for Trent University – a new undergraduate research journal that aims to bring together the best undergraduate work in the humanities natural and social sciences.

Trent University has a proud tradition of emphasizing interdisciplinary education. Many Trent graduates will take courses in a wide sampling of disciplines and it is not unusual to see someone graduate with a degree in Biology and Economics, or in Philosophy and Physics. Interdisciplinarity is not entirely unique to Trent, but it is a defining feature of the university. Therefore, it is not surprising to see JUST featuring work from undergraduates of all disciplines.

A task like this does not come together without the work of many people, and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge them now.

First of all, we would like to thank our founding editors, Chris Allen and Syed (S.K.) Hussan. Chris and Hussan represent a microcosm of what JUST is meant to represent – the bringing together of the natural sciences and humanities. Chris, as a biochemistry student, and Hussan as a development studies student deserve many thanks for their commitment to making this project happen.

We would also like to thank all of the authors who contributed their work for review to our journal. We had over 90 students submit work across disciplines, an overwhelming response. Even more overwhelming was the quality of the work. It was a difficult task to decide whose work was published, but we are confident the papers we picked represent exceptional undergraduate research.

Our reviewers also deserve much thanks. They did much more work than they may have expected (or we could have predicted) and yet were prompt, committed and responsible, without exception. Without their tireless efforts (and when one considers the work involved in reviewing 20 or more articles during essay time, it is surely tireless), we could not have done this. Thank you!

We also need to point out faculty reviewers whose support was essential in our success. Professors Leonard Conolly, Rita Bode, Dimitry Anastakis, Gillian Balfour, David Morrisson, Ilya Parkins, David Newhouse, Paul Shaffer, Hugh Elton, Nadine Changfoot and Youngwon Cho were all very supportive of our goal, and their help, advice and guidance was invaluable.

This first edition of JUST is something special, and something historic. We are all proud to have been a part of it; and we hope you enjoy the best of what Trent University's undergraduate students have to offer!

Tasnova Khan - *Science Editor-in-Chief*
John Mullin - *Arts Editor-in-Chief*