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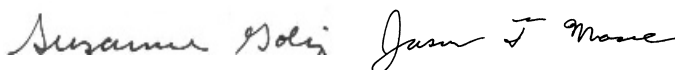
From the Editors

Our undergraduate years are a time for looking forward. Some of us look forward to our upcoming careers. Some of us look forward to graduate, others to medical or law school. While each of us has a different path before us, it is our time in college that prepares us for what we must face in the world. Ultimately, our undergraduate experiences create the framework in which we will learn for the rest of our lives. As we disperse from our schools to all corners of the globe, each one of us will embark upon new and different learning experiences. How we come to understand our jobs, continuing education, and responsibilities in general will be shaped by these learning frameworks we create during our time as undergraduates.

Such frameworks are hardly a new concept. It is a common maxim that one “learns how to learn” while in college, and we at jur believe this wholeheartedly. As much as college is about the gathering of actual knowledge that will be useful in the future, it is also about building methodologies for understanding the world around us. And there is no better process for honing our skills of rational analysis and critical thought than research. Regardless of discipline, real research – which is readily accessible to anyone willing to look – places demands on the mind and person that shape us into more responsible, farsighted, and wiser people. We will carry these skills with us throughout college and into the world, and will depend on them to navigate through hardship, success, and everyday life.

We at jur continue our commitment to excellence in undergraduate research with this new issue, which will be distributed in print across the United States, and available electronically worldwide. And that circulation reflects a firm belief that we hold: the research appearing in the pages that follow need not be qualified as ‘undergraduate,’ as though it is inherently less than any research appearing in traditional journals. Being necessarily enmeshed in a process of significant evolution and self-discovery does not preclude undergraduates from producing rigorously researched work. In fact, it has the potential to produce new and insightful perspectives on issues never before considered publicly. It is in that spirit that we invite you to read on, and learn a little more about how our world works.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Golisz, 2005

Jason Moore, 2005

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