Letter from the Editor

By Kathryn Kilichowski
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Dear SOAR Journal Viewers,

For the past five semesters I have had the privilege to be a part of the creation, hard work and continuation of SUNY Oneonta Academic Research Journal. As the last founding member and creator of SOAR Journal, I have served on the editorial board as the marketing and communications editor for two semesters, and I am graduating as the coordinating editor of three semesters. It is my honor to have been a part of the SOAR Journal editorial board, and to work so hard on something that offers many opportunities to my peers and future undergraduate students. My role on the editorial board has been rewarding in many ways and has given me an inside look to appreciate and understand scholarly publication. I have developed many skills and have applied my experience from SOAR Journal to all of my academic endeavors. As I graduate, and depart from SUNY Oneonta, I know SOAR Journal will prosper and continue to expand in the hands of the next editorial board.

SOAR Journal began as a special topics research journal class with Professor Gregory Fulkerson. Professor Fulkerson wanted to give student researchers more support in their research and give students an opportunity to use their research after the completed it. In the Fall of 2016, I took the special topics research journal class with Professor Fulkerson, in which I learned about the world of journals and article publications. In this class he shared his vision of a social science journal that is run by undergraduate students, and for other students to submit their own academic work for publication. SUNY Oneonta has many research opportunities, but like many schools the social science department was missing the opportunity for undergraduate students to
publish their own work. As a sophomore this was very intimidating and seemed ambitious, but we knew the school would benefit from an undergraduate journal for years to come.

The founding members of the editorial board and I created SOAR Journal to be open to all social science disciplines and have all types of scholarly work accepted. Our goals were to create an opportunity for students to think about their academic career and be recognized for their hard work. The opportunity for undergraduate publishing is not something many schools have, and SOAR Journal is needed to emphasize the importance of research and support students pursue their own research endeavors. SOAR Journal is created from the ground up, we worked out the process, through the kinks, and learned more about publications along the way. We created the foundation, the framework, the standards, the website and everything else to craft our own journal that is special to SUNY Oneonta. Through the many obstacles and challenges, we found solutions, and worked hard to create a true scholarly journal that upholds academic standards with integrity. All of our hard work had paid off when in December of 2017, SOAR Journal had it’s very first publication, making SOAR a true success.

SOAR Journal has been such a significant part of my college career, and I can never thank Professor Fulkerson enough for including me in this process. SOAR Journal has given me experience, and knowledge that I will carry on.

Best, Katie Kilichowski

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