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Editor's Introduction, 2020

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Welcome to the 2020 volume of *Access: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship*

Dear Reader,

As I write, it is election week—a week that, like the rest of this year, has seemed to go on forever. Still, like everything else that 2020 has brought us, this week will eventually end. A decision will be reached—a president chosen. There will be both disappointment and delight, readjustments, and hopefully, peace—or at least a sense of relief at reaching resolution.

Life will go on.

In the midst of this extraordinarily challenging year, I am happy to announce something that has at last reached its conclusion—the review and publication process for 2020 volume of *Access: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship*. Like everything else about this year, our annual publication has been fraught with challenges to be overcome, processes that took much longer than anticipated—and a lot of hard work by everyone who had even a small finger in the final result. But, in the end, we have a great collection of student work that represents some of the best writing that happened on our campus this past year.

These six articles cover a wide range of disciplines, including several that have never been represented in previous *Access* issues: mathematics, business, literature and film analysis, history, and a unique piece that reflects on some of the issues that we've faced as a nation this year. I am extraordinarily proud of the work that all this year's authors have put into these articles and I am pleased to be able to introduce it here:

Our first article, written by Assistant Editor and UW Tacoma alumni, Beck Adelante, is *American Exceptionalism and Individualism: "It won't happen to me, and if it happened to you, it's your own fault!"* is a reflective piece that considers the human cost of some of the challenging events we've faced in 2020 (and even before). In the second position is Syntyche Walker's *A Hand Out in the Dark: Rethinking the Human in Ursula K. LeGuin's "Nine Lives."* Walker's article uses LeGuin's writing to explore the

Western cultural obsession with youth, beauty, and perfection through the lens of science fiction. In an article that incorporates his independent undergraduate research in the Milgard School, Anthony Teeter examines the statistical and economic models that undergird predictions in sports betting in *Applying the Data: Predictive Analytics in Sports*. Next, Kazuaki Suhamu considers the role of Hirohito in Japanese aggression in the years leading up to and during the second world war in his history capstone: *A Re-examination of Emperor Hirohito's Military and Political Role in Wartime Japan, 1926-1945*. Steve Mwangi introduces us to *Hamming Codes*, the application of Matrix Algebra to not only detect, but correct, error in information transmission through wireless communication. And finally, Crysta Rollison's *We are not Alone: Finding Family across a Universe of Differences in "Lilo and Stitch"* considers the film through a variety of lenses, including themes and elements of science fiction, grief, and post-colonialism.

I have no doubt you will enjoy them all.

I'd also like to offer a huge *thank you* to the *Access* editorial board who carried this year's review process in the midst of all the upheavals that a global pandemic could possibly bring to an academic schedule—the disruption and confusion caused by the sudden move to online courses (a move that literally happened over a weekend and currently extends into the foreseeable future), in addition to all the usual issues involved in a summertime review schedule. Yet despite all the challenges, these intrepid scholars stepped up to the plate and got things done—offering insightful and valuable feedback to student writers and giving them a small taste of the academic publishing process—but with much more support than is typical of the profess. The student writers—and I—thank you!

I would also like to offer my deepest gratitude to my two incredible assistant editors—James Hannes and Beck Adelante—who worked with me on final revisions and copyedits while the world around us was—quite literally—burning. They fought power outages, smoke-filled skies and, in spite of the fact that we couldn't work through the issue face-to-face as we usually do, still stayed on top of the final details until all articles were "publication-ready." Although we are a few weeks behind schedule, we have—at last—reached a satisfying resolution.

And finally, I'd like to thank the student authors who weathered this process during such turbulent times—two rounds of revision, responding to last-minute questions, and giving final approval in a timely manner, all while waiting anxiously for that email that let them know that they had finally reached the status of *published author*. Thank you for your patience.

In anticipation of new beginnings,

Margaret Lundberg

Editor-in-Chief

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