

2013

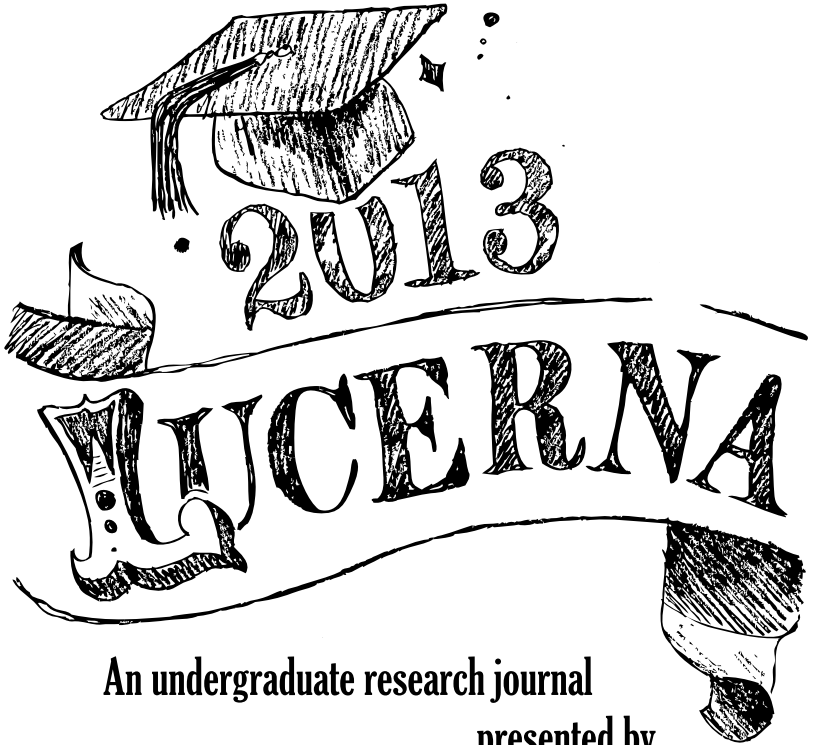
LUCERNA

UMKC
UNDERGRADUATE

RESEARCH

JOURNAL

Vol. 8 Issue 1



An undergraduate research journal
presented by
the Honors Program

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
KANSAS CITY**

Volume 8. Issue 1

CONTENTS

6 Letter from the Editor

7 Editorial Board

8 Honorable Mentions

Economics

11 Lydia Alpurul-Sullivan:
Roots and Radicals: Community and the
New Northwest

Geology

18 James Mitchell:
United States Carbon Tax: Practical, Ethical, and Effective
Within the Context of Global Climate Policy

Mathematics

27 Anna Riffe:
The Impossible Proof: An Analysis of Adrien-Marie
Legendre's Attempts to Prove Euclid's Fifth Postulate

47 Neiloy Medhi:
Meta-Analysis of Polls from the 2012
Presidential Election

English

67 Alex Poppen:
Evoking Emotion: The Visual Rhetoric
of World War II Propaganda

Kristen Allred: 80
The Literary Achievements of Alice Lloyd Pitts: Assumptions of
Power through Rhetorical Identity Constructions

Lorraine Sands: 91
Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric and Metaphors

Foreign Languages

Gloria Devonshire: 100
The Struggle Between the Domestic and Desire: Bourgeois
Women's Role in the Modern Market

Philosophy

McKayla Smith: 112
Ethical Exclusions: Culpability in the Suffering of
Vulnerable Populations

Author Biographies 127



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the eighth volume of *Lucerna*. Within these pages, you will find an impressive array of research conducted by your undergraduate peers in various disciplines at UMKC. From Geology, Mathematics, and Economics to English, Philosophy, and Foreign Languages, I hope you will enjoy reading these essays as much as we have.

Of course, the publication of this journal would be impossible without the professors who encouraged their students to submit. On that note, I would like to personally thank Professor Mitchell Green, Dr. Raymond Coveney, Dr. Richard Delaware, Dr. Yong Zeng, Dr. Henri Wood, Dr. Jane Greer, Dr. Gayle Levy, and Dr. James Sheppard. Your advice, guidance, and support in the development of these essays are appreciated by all of us.

Additionally, I would like to thank the Honors Program faculty members that serve as advisors for *Lucerna*, Dr. Frances Connelly, Dr. Gayle Levy, and Ms. Sally Mason. I would also like to give a special thanks to Egghead, the UMKC student graphic design group, and their faculty liaison Paul Tosh. Their untiring enthusiasm, motivation, creativity, and invaluable advice have supported the continued growth and development of this journal. I must also thank our peer reviewers and editorial staff for their hard work this year towards the publication of *Lucerna*. If the dedication our staff displayed this year is any indication of our future success, I am certain *Lucerna* will only continue to grow and improve.

Finally, I would like to offer some words of thanks and encouragement to our student authors. Thank you for submitting to *Lucerna* and congratulations on your published work! I am convinced that the essays published in this volume of *Lucerna* include the best representation of undergraduate work here at UMKC. I hope you will continue to be an inspiration to your peers and never doubt your voice as a writer. The work you have published is an important contribution to UMKC undergraduate academic research as well as an important contribution to your own development as a scholar. Trust your peers and professors when they say you have an important perspective that is worthy of sharing. Your ability to construct meaningful research and writing from your experience as a student is crucial, and will only better you and the people around you if it is shared. I wish you all continued success in your future endeavors.

“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is more people who have come alive.”

– Howard Thurman

Very Sincerely,

Noria McCarther

2012 Managing Editor

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EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief Mikayla Green

Mikayla Green graduated from UMKC with her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Literature in August 2013. She began working with *Lucerna* during her second year at UMKC as Secretary, moved to the position of Managing Editor the following year, and finally led the journal as Editor-in-Chief during her last year as an undergraduate. Mikayla enjoys working on *Lucerna* because it provides hands-on, real-life experience to supplement what she learns in the classroom. Mikayla was also involved with many other extracurricular activities within the Honors Program. Mikayla worked on *The Honors Herald*, the Honors Program newsletter, participated in Honors Student Advisory Council, and was a member of three honor societies, Sigma Tau Delta, Mortar Board, and Omicron Delta Kappa. Mikayla plans to work in the field of publishing doing magazine editing.

Managing Editor Noria McCarther

Noria McCarther is currently a junior at UMKC pursuing a double degree in Biology and Sociology. Noria developed a love of writing and research in high school and wanted to foster her interests by participating in the publication of *Lucerna*. Noria joined the Honors Program in the spring of 2013 and has been involved with *Lucerna* ever since. Noria enjoys working on *Lucerna* because she likes seeing students work collaboratively with their peers and faculty in the writing process. It helps students improve their writing skills and come away with a tangible achievement from their undergraduate career. Noria is also involved with GlobeMed, a nonprofit public health organization on campus. She plans to apply to medical school next summer and will work toward an MD/Masters in Public Health degree.

Treasurer Shiva Oliaei

Shiva Oliaei is a sophomore majoring in Biology with a focus in pre-medical studies. Besides working as Treasurer for *Lucerna*, Shiva is an active member of Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, a community service fraternity on campus. Shiva also works as a biology and chemistry tutor. In her free time, Shiva enjoys traveling, shopping, and reading. Shiva joined *Lucerna* because she enjoys reading articles and her position helps her to be more organized.

Marketing & Media Coordinator Sarah Pourakbar

Sarah Pourakbar started out as a freshman at UMKC in the fall of 2012 and in the fall of 2013, she began UMKC's Six Year Medical Program. Sarah is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Biology with a minor in Spanish and by May 2019, she will have completed her medical degree. Although Sarah is not absolutely sure what kind of medicine she wants to pursue, as many students change their mind throughout the program, she is leaning towards becoming a family practitioner. Sarah's other extracurricular activities include playing the piano, volunteering at The Ewing Marion Kauffman School, and participating in Alpha Phi Omega, UMKC's on-campus community service fraternity. Sarah decided to join *Lucerna* because she had experience with the literary magazine at her high school. Sarah enjoys being a part of a *Lucerna* because it brings to light the various kinds of undergraduate research being conducted at our own university.

Secretary Chelsea Mouse

While at UMKC, Chelsea majored in Biology with a pre-medical emphasis and minored in Spanish. Chelsea's future goal is to become a family physician and to help as many people as she can. In her spare time, Chelsea loves going to country music concerts and spending time at the beach. Chelsea got involved in *Lucerna* because it gives people a chance to publish great works of writing, in which they put a lot of effort. Chelsea enjoys getting to read pieces of writing from her peers who have a different outlook on the world.

Essay Reviewers

Kayla Cummickel

Kayla Cummickel is a senior pursuing a degree in Nursing and has been in the Honors Program since her freshman year. Kayla decided to join the *Lucerna* staff because she was looking to become more involved in the Honors Program. Kayla's future goals are to get through her senior year and graduate with Honors with a Bachelors of Science degree in Nursing. After that, she hopes to get her nursing license, become a traveling nurse, and see the world! Kayla is also a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, a sorority at UMKC.

Sydney Ingram

Sydney Ingram is a senior majoring in Creative Writing. Sydney plans on attending graduate school next year to pursue a Master's degree. Sydney spent a semester abroad in London through the Missouri-London Program (MLP) and would like to be able to travel as part of her future career. Sydney is the student ambassador for CAPA International Education Organization, the organization that hosts MLP. Sydney wanted to participate in *Lucerna* because she enjoys editing and the publication process. Sydney likes collecting vinyl records and researching the Beat Generation.

McKayla Smith

McKayla Smith is a senior studying Philosophy and Spanish, on the pre-law track. McKayla plans to attend law school next year and her goal is to eventually become an attorney working in the non-profit field. McKayla is passionate about human rights and she really enjoys volunteering. She loves to read non-fiction and her favorite author is Phillippe Bourgois. McKayla was interested in *Lucerna* because she thinks it is a valuable resource for learning about the research our peers are doing, and because it was a good opportunity to work on her editing and writing skills.

Essay Review Board:

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Honorable Mentions:

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A Spot of Tea: Complicating Identity in James Joyce's Ulysses
(English)

Sabrin Qadi

Betty Friedan: The Use of Speech Rhetoric in Reframing Abortion Laws
(English)

Nathan Hoffmann

The New Richard Takes on Paris: Don Juan's French Premiere
(Conservatory)

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Lydia A. Alpural-Sullivan is an Economics major. She chose to attend UMKC to pursue her Economics degree because of the broad and complex perspectives the department offers. Lydia plans to pursue a graduate degree in Economics with a special focus on economic inequality and alternative solutions. Eventually, Lydia hopes to return to her hometown of Seattle, Washington. She would like to extend a sincere thank you to Professor Mitch Green who encouraged her in this project and lent his expertise in editing. Without his enthusiastic help, she would never have considered submitting to *Lucerna*

James W. Mitchell graduated from UMKC in May 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies and a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Performance (cello). James attended UMKC because of the conservatory and cello professor, Carter Enyeart. Outside of school, James attempts to balance his life with traveling and mountain biking. Combining the cello and environmental policy is another interest of his. And according to James, “yes, it is possible.” James is currently attending the University of Oxford for his Master of Science in Nature, Society & Environmental Policy. James would like to thank Dr. Coveney, “you were the first professor outside of music to challenge me. Thank you for grading hard on my writing, it helped me immensely and won’t soon be forgotten. Enjoy retirement!”

Anna R. Riffe is currently pursuing a degree in Mathematics with a minor in Physics. She enjoys living in Kansas City, so she chose to go to UMKC for her Bachelor’s degree. Anna likes to play guitar, visit her church’s prayer room, and play games with her family when she has free time. Anna would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Richard Delaware for his guidance in both the research and the writing of her essay. His knowledge in the field of historical (and present-day) mathematics was a tremendous help.

Neiloy M. Medhi graduated summa cum laude in Spring 2013 with a Liberal Arts degree and minors in Math and Criminal Justice. Neiloy chose to attend UMKC because it is a good university in the Kansas City area. Neiloy’s hobbies include singing and following politics, though not necessarily at the same time. Neiloy’s future plans are to get some training in statistical software and data analysis. Neiloy would like to extend a thank you to Dr. Zeng

for doing this Independent Study with him and encouraging him to submit his paper to *Lucerna*. He would also like to thank Dr. Vonnahme for not only providing valuable feedback, but inspiring his interest in political science and public opinion as well.

Alex A. Poppen is a pre-pharmacy student and chose to attend UMKC because it is one of the only schools in Missouri to offer a full pharmacy program. Alex's hobbies include running, reading comics, and hanging with his friends. After graduation, he would very much like to find work as a veterinary pharmacist so he can work with animals. Alex would like to thank his English professor, Dr. Henrietta Wood, for getting him started on this paper and helping him along the way. Alex would also like to thank Stuart Hinds and the Special Collections Department for giving him access to the World War II posters, which made this paper possible.

Kristen L. Allred is a senior, majoring in English Language and Rhetoric, with dual minors in History and Classical Studies. Kristen will be graduating in May of 2014, after which she plans to pursue graduate studies in Rhetoric and Composition. As a current consultant at UMKC's Writing Studio, Kristen also hopes to continue with Writing Center work throughout her graduate career. Kristen wishes to thank Dr. Jane Greer for her encouragement to look for the extraordinary in the everyday, and to share the stories of those whose experiences are often either misappropriated or ignored. Without Dr. Greer, Alice's story, like those of so many girls past, would have remained buried.

Lorraine I. Sands is a Spanish major, although she is considering an additional major in another area. Lorraine is also highly interested, and has been taking courses in, the new Latina/Latino Studies Program at UMKC, and would love to minor in that area if it is made available soon. Lorraine chose to attend UMKC because she loves Kansas City, and has lived here all of her life. She was excited to merge her academic interests with the place she cares about. Lorraine's interests include Kansas City, cooking, languages, and human rights. After graduation, Lorraine would like to travel and use her Spanish language skills, and hopefully find work that allows her to pursue her interests. Lorraine wishes to thank Dr. Wood and Dr. Carranza for providing guidance and opinions in the development of her essay, and for likewise encouraging her submission to *Lucerna*.

Gloria R. Devonshire graduated UMKC in May 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History. Gloria chose to attend UMKC because it gave her the opportunity to work directly with local museums as a part of her coursework. Aside from studying art, Gloria also makes artwork herself sometimes. Gloria currently works in the Education Department at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Gloria would like to thank Professor Gayle Levy for giving her the confidence to share her work.

McKayla M. Smith is a senior student majoring in Philosophy and Spanish with a focus in Pre-Law. McKayla chose to attend UMKC because she loves Kansas City and she did not want to live in a small college town. McKayla plans to study abroad this upcoming summer in Argentina and then attend law school in the fall. She wants to pursue a law career in the non-profit and human rights field. McKayla would like to thank Dr. Sheppard for guiding her through the process of writing and editing this paper, providing her with helpful resources to expand her knowledge of the subject matter, as well as challenging her to keep improving her work.