

From the Editor:

This has been a year of transition for those of us who work on *Bridges* because the 2011 edition of the publication is the first issue devoted to student research. During the 2009-2010 academic year, the Editorial Board adopted and Provost Sheehan endorsed a proposal to change the online journal's focus to research conducted and written by students. With this change, Coastal Carolina University now has four outlets for student publications of a wide variety of types: *The Chanticleer*, our student newspaper; *Tempo*, a student-produced features magazine; *Archarios*, CCU's award-winning fine arts publication; and *Bridges—A Journal of Student Research*.

Collected here are six well-written articles on a variety of subjects, all showcasing the impressive work done by our students. The depth of thought and quality of research in these articles is obvious, and *Bridges* is proud to be able to feature and promote this kind of work on our campus.

Topics in this year's issue range from the local in Brian Quigley's detailed analysis of ocean circulation patterns in the Long Bay area to the global political issues in Jessica Kata's work on the relationship between China and the two Koreas. We have two fine "hard science" articles: Desiree Leach's article titled "Microbial Stoichiometry and Homeostasis of Nutrient Ratios in Fungi" and Sherri Tomlinson's excellent work on UV radiation and its effects on bacteriophage survival. Mark Barnes examines legal questions about property rights in the virtual online environment—issues that will no doubt grow in importance in the near future as virtual communities begin to compete with the "real world" for our time and attention. Kylie Roberts looks at Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder among college students, a growing concern for educators, parents, and health professionals.

The goal for the journal is not to examine a specific theme or focus, but instead to foster the kinds of research found in this issue. Publishing student research serves two functions. First, it gives an outlet and incentive for student work of this type. Second, it publicizes the fine work not only of the students, but of the faculty who devote their time and energy to advising and working with students on their research. Each of these articles was recommended to the journal (and in one case, even co-authored) by a CCU professor who had worked with the student closely on the research project. The faculty sponsors who worked with the students are listed on the acknowledgements page along with the Editorial Board members and outside reviewers who read and commented on the articles. All of these faculty members deserve our thanks for contributing toward the intellectual and academic development not only of the student authors, but of the entire CCU community.

As you read these articles, you will notice the quality and depth of work completed by undergraduate students at this institution. Judged against research done by professional scholars in these fields, this work certainly holds its own. Judged by the standards for student research, these articles are quite impressive and demonstrate each student's potential for important future scholarship. We are proud to present this issue and to provide this forum for their work.

--Scott Pleasant, Editor (2010-2011)