

# Dear Reader,

You are looking at the inaugural issue of the *Duluth Journal of Advanced Writing* (DJAW), an open source, online journal created by undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) for the UMD community--and the world! Its genesis evolved from the successes of two other UMD online journals within the University of Minnesota Library Publishing repertoire: the *Duluth Journal of Undergraduate Biology* (DJUB) and *Aesthesis*, created by students in an upper level biology class and an Honors Advanced Writing class, respectively.

This journal takes work written by students in UMD's Advanced Writing classes, a requirement for most majors, or work written by students in majors that already require extensive writing and therefore do not require Advanced Writing classes. Soliciting the work via a call-for-papers while creating the design for the journal and researching information regarding online rhetoric, the students in a Writing Studies Electronic Publishing class, who made up the editorial board, went about creating this periodical. They found reviewers for the submissions, as the students themselves also reviewed the submissions in order to make the difficult choices regarding what to accept for publication.

After making the selections and informing the submitters of its decisions, the editorial board then went about editing the selections and finalizing the designs for the journal. To complete these tasks in one semester would be daunting enough--especially since professional journals take almost twice as long to complete the same feats—and since this experience would be almost all students' first on an editorial board.

However, this year, the process was complicated by the COVID-19 crisis. Instead of meeting face-to-face, the students had to learn to negotiate online technologies to complete their tasks. Yet, because of their experiences with the University of Minnesota Library's online publishing platform and with online design software, the students made the move with grace.

This journal is the result of this one semester journey.

The pieces in here come from the submissions gathered from students across the campus who chose to submit their work. These articles thus reflect the work that UMD students from different disciplines had done previously in their Advanced Writing classes or in classes that satisfy the Advance Writing requirement. And the goal of all these classes is to teach students how to write for their disciplines as they provide students with experience composing texts for both academic and professional audiences.

This journal is not perfect. However, it exemplifies what students are doing in Advanced Writing classes, and it also provides a resource for students and instructors to read and converse about what these different audiences need and want. Too often, the writing done in classrooms

is only read by the students who write the work and the instructors who grade it. This journal provides an opportunity for dialogue about what works (and what does not) in the choices the writers (and editors) make within this journal.

Therefore, I invite you to appreciate the labor of *DJAW*'s student editors and student writers. I also invite you to join in an interdisciplinary conversation about what makes writing in the professions succeed.

Sincerely,

Elizabethada Wright  
Faculty Advisor to *DJAW*

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