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## Editors' Note: Welcome, Fellow Scholars!

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It is with great pride that the members of the Editorial Board unveil the inaugural issue of the *Student Journal of Psychological Science*. The introduction of this journal represents a significant step in our efforts to further publicize the exciting, innovative work undertaken by our students here at MSCD.

Most of us who have chosen a life in academia do so out of a passionate love of ideas. The dissemination of ideas is the lifeblood of any scholarly field. As social scientists, we are called upon to share our theories and data with our colleagues, to expose our work to the critical eye of other thoughtful and inquisitive observers. It is through this process of exposure and sharing that knowledge advances. Those theories, ideas, and findings that stand the test of time are retained; those that do not are discarded. The act of offering up one's ideas for critical analysis is age-old. By doing so today, we follow in the footsteps of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

For the scholar, this process represents a time for both excitement and anxiety. It is often not easy to allow others to cast an eye upon our efforts, efforts invested with intense time and energy. We may fear that our best work will be found lacking. Submitting one's work to critical

analysis is an act of courage and an act of passion. The willingness to do so is an act that is to be respected. The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche one wrote that, "...the secret for harvesting from existence the greatest fruitfulness and greatest enjoyment is — to live dangerously." Thus, we offer our respect and congratulations to all those who chose to "live dangerously" enough to submit their work to this journal.

For the initial issue of the *Student Journal of Psychological Science*, the Editorial Board received seven submissions. Each of these submissions was distributed to multiple peer reviewers. Reviewers included MSCD Psychology Department Faculty as well as students in Psychology and Human Development. Reviewers were asked to read the submissions, to identify strengths and weaknesses of the work, and to make recommendations regarding whether the manuscript should be published. In most cases, authors were then provided the opportunity to address concerns raised by the reviewers. Finally, those of us on the Editorial Board assessed the recommendations provided by the reviewers, along with revisions made by the authors, and made final decisions regarding which manuscripts would be included in the

Journal. Of the seven submissions, two were selected.

The two manuscripts represent the range of work that is of interest to the Journal. The article by Sabrina Hamilton reports the results of an empirical study examining the relationship between perceived body image and depression. The article by Katie Youngpeter is a critical literature review and historical analysis of the development of the modern ethical guidelines that shape the research that we conduct. While substantively and stylistically different, both articles demonstrate the virtues of critical thinking, strong writing, and sound methodology appropriate to each project. It is the hope of the Editorial Board that these characteristics become the hallmark of work published in the Student Journal of Psychological Science. Ms. Hamilton and Ms. Youngpeter are both to be congratulated for their outstanding creative efforts.

The Student Journal of Psychological Science will be published online twice each year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall. Submission is open-ended, meaning that there is no specific deadline for submission; rather, manuscripts will be reviewed as they are received. As members of the scholarly community within our department, each of you as students are encouraged to engage in the time-honored tradition of sharing your work. Consider submitting a manuscript to the Student Journal of Psychological Science!

Respectfully,

The Editors

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