LETTER FROM MANAGING EDITOR, ABBIGAIL JOHNSON

How do we come to understand the world around us? What shapes the stories we tell, the images we consume, and the assumptions we use to interpret our experiences? These questions take shape across multiple disciplines and media. In Volume 4, Issue 2, The Motley Undergraduate Journal demonstrates the breadth of perspectives through which these questions can be explored.

This edition brings together scholarship spanning film studies, visual culture, investigative journalism, and political philosophy. Although the authors approach their subjects through different methodologies and theoretical frameworks, their work shares a common interest in looking beyond the surface: questioning familiar narratives, examining structures of power, and exploring how meaning is produced and understood.

The Motley celebrates undergraduate research and its process, from initial submission and review to editing and publication. A journal is only as memorable as its contributors, and I have the privilege of working with a diverse collective of scholars to put out incredible work. This level of curiosity and care has allowed us to plant our roots firmly in undergraduate research.

The community of lifelong scholars of the Motley Undergraduate Journal is situated in Moh'kinstis and the traditional Treaty 7 territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, composed of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani. We also acknowledge the Îyâxe Nakoda, which includes the Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Goodstoney First Nations, as well as the Tsuut'ina Nation. The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation within Alberta (Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6). As settlers on this land, we must acknowledge those who built this region and will continue to see it thrive.

The Motley Undergraduate Journal would not be possible without the Department of Communications, Media, and Film at the University of Calgary giving the journal the soil needed to grow. A special thank you is owed to Dr. Maria Bakardjieva, professor, Chair of Communications and Media Studies at the University of Calgary, and the Editor-in-Chief of the Motley. We also thank Dr. Maria Victoria Guglietti, who continues to support the journal by nominating the most submissions and providing insightful reviews and guidance. A special thank you goes out to the faculty and graduate students who worked diligently to provide thoughtful reviews. And to our new volunteers, who eagerly took on the studious task of peer reviewing and copy editing. With this being my first edition as Managing Editor, I am grateful for the guidance and support of the department's faculty and students. Finally, thank you to Melissa Morris, who planted the seeds to allow the journal to blossom into the intellectual hub it is today.