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From the Editor, Special Issue: Canada and the United States in the Age of Trump

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From the Guest Editor

In March 2018, 95 undergraduate students from a variety of post-secondary institutions across North America gathered at Bridgewater State University to meet and share with one another their research and writing on current and historical subjects involving Canada, Quebec, and the United States. The one-day symposium was co-hosted by BSU's Canadian Studies Program and Undergraduate Research Office, and generously supported by the Government of Canada's Consulate for New England and the province of Quebec's government office in Boston. Named "Canada, the United States and Quebec in the Age of Trump," the event featured the insights of students from BSU and other schools: Emerson College and SUNY-Buffalo in the United States; Carleton, McGill, Queen's, Thompson Rivers, and Western universities, along with the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Ottawa in Canada. Presenting singly and in teams, they analyzed the future of NAFTA, refugee policy and immigration reform, the president and the prime minister, Indigenous rights and Reconciliation, and health-care provision in Canada and the United States. One highlight of the symposium was a keynote address delivered by Dr. Michael Hawes, CEO of Fulbright Canada and a leading proponent of student research and scholar exchange between Canada and the U.S.

The high quality of presentations made on that day (and the enthusiasm that the event generated) inspired the publication of a special issue of *The Undergraduate Review*, BSU's established undergraduate research journal. The essays featured in these pages showcase the hard work and the heights of insightful analysis that undergraduate research can entail. They demonstrate, clearly, how polished research and writing has become a central part of undergraduate learning for many students, in many institutions across North America. All of us in the Canadian Studies Program at BSU, now in its forty-sixth year of existence, were thrilled to be co-host of this event and we look forward to reprising it in coming years.

Dr. Andrew C. Holman
Director, Canadian Studies Program

From the Editor of *The Undergraduate Review*

Bridgewater State University (BSU) has built a signature program of Undergraduate Research with significant funding and opportunities for students in any major to discover new knowledge and make original contributions to their discipline or community. Undergraduate Research has been an institutional priority at BSU for more than 20 years because students who are mentored by professors on projects in which they are deeply invested, gain highly valued experience and skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication. The experience of conducting authentic research under faculty mentorship makes undergraduates more successful students and outstanding candidates for post-graduation competitive opportunities, thereby changing the trajectories of their lives.

Undergraduate Research includes the scholarly work from any academic field, and can take several different forms, from collaborating with professors on their scholarship to taking on long-term course assignments that go beyond traditional research papers and projects, such as by including a presentation of the results at a campus or disciplinary symposium. Dissemination of one's findings is a key criterion of high-impact Undergraduate Research. When students share their work with an audience of peers, experts, and others in the academic and broader community, they become much more invested in the work than if they were "writing to the professor" to earn a passing course grade. They think more intentionally about the audience, purpose, and overall quality of the research and writing. They also develop deeper understanding of their areas of study as they reflect on and respond to audience members' questions.

For all of those reasons, BSU is proud to have hosted the “Canada, the United States and Quebec in the Age of Trump” undergraduate-research conference and to publish some of the highest quality research presented there in this special issue of *The Undergraduate Review*.

Dr. Jenny Shanahan
Assistant Provost
Center for Transformative Learning