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FOREWORD

The Office of Undergraduate Research is privileged to publish our tenth edition of the Washington University Senior Honors Thesis Abstracts (WUSHTA), an annual compendium presenting the work of our most talented and dedicated graduates.

Each year, our student contributors are recognized for rigorous and in-depth research projects which serve as capstones for their undergraduate years. These projects earn students the distinction of honors in their departments, colleges, and schools. Over the course of their undergraduate careers, these students have contributed an extraordinary body of new knowledge to their fields in ways far beyond what is generally expected at this stage of their lives, demonstrating that deep intellectual inquiry, exploration, and innovation is a hallmark of the Washington University undergraduate experience.

In recognizing the work of the students and the honors they have earned, we also recognize their mentors, academic departments, colleges, and schools, whose careful guidance has inspired these students to contribute their own original conclusions to growing bodies of academic research.

Finally, the Office of Undergraduate Research is greatly indebted to the late Kathryn Hoopes, whose generous bequest in support of undergraduate research continues to provide students with the means to perform outstanding research and us with the means to introduce it to a wider audience.

Congratulations to the Class of 2018. We are honored to present your work.



LINDSEY PAUNOVICH
Editor



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and Associate Dean in the College
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