

Letter from the Editor

On March 12, 2017, four undergraduate students traveled to Washington and Lee University to deliver papers on a wide variety of ethical issues, ranging from what our attitudes should be toward death to whether citizens are morally obligated to contribute to their communities' media outlets. It is not hyperbolic to characterize this second annual Mudd Undergraduate Ethics Conference as a tremendous success, both on account of the students' excellent papers and their enthusiasm to put forth publicly their own ethical ideas, which they defended with thoughtfulness and intelligence. Perhaps most importantly, each student's presentation stimulated rich discussions about salient issues that were readable and of considerable import to those who attended the conference.

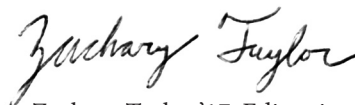
The second annual publication of *The Mudd Journal* represents our attempt to continue these important discussions among our readers. Essays on abortion and the local media landscape call us to think critically as citizens about current political debates in the public sphere. Essays on our relationship with death and practical-regret cause us to reconceive ethical attitudes in our personal lives. In addition, this second volume of the journal includes two papers from students unable to attend the conference, whose ethical conclusions are no less provocative and noteworthy. Luke Brown asks whether an acclaimed work of contemporary fiction treats embodying responses to the Holocaust, or the Shoah, in an ethical manner. Lorenzo Nericcio admirably combines utilitarianism, one of the foremost moral deliberative theories in analytic philosophy, with existentialism, a notable school of thought in continental philosophy. Despite not being able to listen to their papers at the conference, we are eager to publish their work here.

The *Mudd Journal of Ethics* is a product of extraordinary effort on behalf of numerous individuals whom I would be remiss not to thank. Debra Frein of the Mudd Center helped make our conference possible and has been just as valuable to the publication of this journal. Mary Woodson and Denise Watts of the Publications office at Washington and Lee have both been essential in our effort to create an attractive journal that we are proud to publish. I also want to thank Teddy Corcoran, who founded *The Mudd Journal*, and whose advice I have consistently relied upon throughout this academic year. Of course, I am especially appreciative to the editors of the journal who read each of the paper submissions, provided feedback, and proposed useful edits and alterations. I want to thank each of them: Austin Piatt, Shaun Soman, Spencer Payne, Kassie Scott, Parker Butler, and Alex Farley. They have all been exceedingly helpful in this collective endeavor.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Angela Smith, Director of the Mudd Center for Ethics, who really made the second volume of this journal possible. Thanks to the full support of the Mudd Center and her enthusiastic commitment to this project, we have been able to host a successful conference and publish one of the only undergraduate journals in the country solely dedicated to the study of ethics. I am so appreciative of Dr. Smith's guidance and profound wisdom.

I hope that the reader will enjoy this excellent collection of ethics-based scholarship from undergraduate philosophers across the country. Their ideas are important, and we are honored to present them here, in this second volume of *The Mudd Journal*.

Sincerely,



Zachary Taylor '17, Editor-in-Chief