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A Letter From the Editor

Amelia Watterson
Sigma, Editor-in-Chief

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A Letter From the Editor

Dear readers,

In a world that is increasingly plagued by insensitivity, ignorance, and incivility, there is an exigent need for individuals to learn to look past their own cultural and ideological boundaries. Investing time in learning about other people, viewpoints, cultures, and communities is an enabling process that allows us to recognize our blindspots and step outside of our own privileges, prejudices, and preconceptions. Even if we never come into personal contact with the communities or people we learn about, we honor them by learning their stories and ensuring they are not forgotten in the world. People need to be understood, and understanding begins with the individual.

For those who are interested in engaging in this kind of global learning, this edition of Sigma is a good place to start. The articles included in this journal seek to promote global understanding by diving into topics such as the effects of racial prejudice on private aid donations, female political participation in Malaysia, affective polarization in the United Kingdom, changes to China's monetary system, and whether there is room for grace in the American dream. By educating ourselves on global issues, we enrich the global narrative and strengthen the global community.

This edition of Sigma would not have reached print without the combined efforts of many dedicated individuals and the support of various campus departments. My thanks goes out to the Political Science and International Relations Departments, as well as the Kennedy Center for International Studies, for their support in facilitating, funding, and printing the journal. Many thanks as well to the faculty members who took time to read and edit this year's Sigma papers. Special thanks goes to the rest of the leadership team, Anna Nakaya and Ellie Mitchell, as well as our faculty advisor, Doug Atkinson. I would also like to thank Scott Cooper, long-time Sigma advisor, who has continued to support the journal from his new position as the head of the IR program. Finally, our many thanks to the authors of this year's papers for allowing us to share their work and research with the Sigma audience.

I am proud to present the 2023–24 edition of Sigma.

Amelia Watterson
Editor-in-Chief