

Letter from the Editor:

The Miami Engineering and Computing Review (MECR) is a student peer-reviewed online journal committed to the development of undergraduate research excellence at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. MECR aims to publish peer-reviewed articles regarding senior design level projects completed by SEAS engineering students. MECR originated in January 2012 with the first publication expected for May 2012. This is the first student peer-reviewed journal produced by SEAS and therefore acts as a trial run from which we hope to develop a superb publication. Our current editorial team is composed of four senior standing engineering students. All current members are graduating in May and therefore we will need to elect a completely new group of editors for next year. We hope the first issue will inspire younger SEAS students to become involved and to produce excellent research for publication.

This semester the editorial team consisted of the following three editors and myself: Matthew Wren, Michael Salt and Brice Terrell. Jim Clarke, Miami University's Engineering Librarian, acted as our faculty advisor and significantly helped in the production and organization of the journal. In the future we hope to have an editorial team of about four engineering students and additionally we would like to create an executive board, which will include an editor-in-chief, associate editor-in-chief and a secretary. This would result in a team of about 7-8 students. In the future we would also like the editorial team to consist of SEAS students from all different class standings. Such a level of diversity will make the transition from year-to-year much smoother as some members graduate from Miami others will have the opportunity to move up positions.

The goal of MECR is to promote a community of research and provide students with the opportunity to have their undergraduate work published in a journal. Students spend immense time and effort on their senior design projects and their substantial efforts should be recognized in a scholarly journal. MECR has other uses: Prospective engineering students may read through issues to learn about undergraduate design projects and current students may evaluate the articles as a benchmark for the writing they will need to produce for their own capstone projects. Some of the research projects also have the potential to be continued and this would be an excellent opportunity for new students to accept the challenge of furthering previous work.

The first issue includes four undergraduate research articles, and each of the four SEAS departments, Chemical and Paper Engineering, Computer Science and Software Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, are represented with an article. In future issues we hope to publish more articles from each SEAS department. For this issue it was difficult to find and publish more articles because we had a limited amount of time and were still determining the basis and formatting of the journal. Over the semester we successfully established a set of requirements for all journal entries and a standard editing protocol. In the future we hope that students will use this as a basis for editing but also integrate their own

expectations and requirements from the journal entries. MEER is a student peer-reviewed journal and therefore will grow and change as the editorial staff changes throughout the years. We hope this becomes the first issue of an outstanding undergraduate engineering journal.

The editorial team would like to thank the University Libraries of Miami University for all their help with the development of the journal and design of the website. We would also like to thank Jim Clarke for leading the initial development of a peer-reviewed journal and for organizing the group of student editors. And finally, we would like to thank the faculty advisors and engineering students who have worked with us to produce exceptional articles for our first issue.

Sincerely,

Haley Clark
Editor in Chief