

About Our Contributors

Chioma Austin-Mona Azih

Originally from Nigeria but raised in Mbabane, Swaziland, Chioma Azih graduated *cum laude* from Methodist University in May of 2017 as she double majored in Political Science (with a concentration on International Relations) and Financial Economics, and minored in Business Administration. In 2017, she was a co-awarded the Political Science Outstanding Graduate Award. While at MU, Azih served in various leadership roles, including treasurer for the Model United Nations Club and vice president of finance for the Collegiate Entrepreneurship Organization. Additionally, she was inducted into the National Political Science Honor Society and Eta Sigma International Business Honor Society. Currently, Azih works as project manager for a business development consultancy in London. She plans to attain a Master of Science in International Development, as she is actively seeking to build a career in the field of research on socio-economic policies in developing countries.

Walter Barnett

Exposed to visual art as a child and inspired by his grandfather, Walter Barnett found his passion for art at an early age, though he rebelled against being told “how to draw” in high school art classes. Barnett majored in Graphic Design at Methodist and minored in Marketing while also pursuing athletic achievements and leadership training. At MU, he was awarded the 2016 Jazz Festival Outstanding Graphic Design Award and the 2016 Anthony J. DeLays Art Achievement Award, became a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, was named in multiple USA South Athletic Conference All-Academic Teams and the USA South Athletic Conference All-Sportsmanship Team, and received the 2017 Men’s Soccer Steve Little Award. Since graduating, Barnett has done graphic design work on a freelance basis, collaborating with individuals, including award-winning actors and writers, and providing design services for groups that produce live entertainment events nationwide. He intends to continue his quest to establish himself as a successful graphic designer.

Courtney DeGarmo

Courtney DeGarmo graduated from Methodist University in May of 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in Nursing. From Palmdale, California, deGarmo spent ten years in the army before attending MU. Currently she works at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit. She plans to further her career by applying to a Doctorate of Nursing program that specializes in pediatric acute care. The topic of her research paper—nutrition in diabetes care—arose from a clinical rotation at the local Veterans Administration Hospital, where she had the opportunity to educate diabetic patients on their food choices. The experience brought home to her how vital good nutrition is to prevent and relieve not only diabetes but a wide array of common chronic diseases, and she now believes that nutrition education should be a national public health priority.

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Stephanie Dewell

From Corona, California, Stephanie Dewell obtained a bachelor's degree in Biology from Methodist University, graduating in December 2016. At Methodist she received an equipment grant from the Center for Research and Creativity. Dewell earned a place on the President's list and the Dean's list, and was a member of the chemistry honors society as well as the biology honors society. Currently she is applying to the North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. She aspires to obtain a DVM degree and work as a veterinary medical officer for the United States Army. Her field research into the clinical ailments of sloth species in Central and South America motivated her to write the research paper that appears in the *Monarch Review*.

Nina Derek

Nina Derek earned her B.A. in English from Methodist University in 2017. A member of honor societies Sigma Tau Delta and Chi Delta Chi, she graduated *magna cum laude* and received the Robert S. Christian English Award. During her undergraduate career, Derek enjoyed working as a student writing consultant in the Writing Center and as a staff member for the *Monarch Review*. Her writing appears in MU's *Tapstry* and in *Atlantis*, a creative literary magazine. After completing an internship with Longleaf Press, Derek decided to pursue a career in publishing. At present, she works as an editorial assistant for a publisher in her native state of Minnesota.

Emily Ewin

Emily Ewin graduated from Methodist University in May of 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Special Education. During her time at Methodist University, she was a captain of the women's lacrosse team, vice president of the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), vice president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC), and a head resident assistant. While studying Special Education at MU, she was intrigued by the different types of teaching licensure and decided to find out how licensure correlated to student success, specifically in special education. This interest led her to write the paper that appears in this volume. Originally from Frederick, Maryland, Ewin began teaching special education in Salisbury, Maryland, following graduation from MU.

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Matthew J. French

From Raleigh, North Carolina, Matthew French graduated from Methodist University in May of 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. At Methodist he was inducted into Tri-Beta and Omicron Delta Kappa, and took part in the men's tennis team and the MU Chorale. He was motivated to write his research paper when he heard about the Wesley Heritage Research Project while leading men's Bible study. Currently, he works in Burlington, North Carolina, for LabCorp as a molecular microbiology laboratory technician, a step towards his goal of earning the necessary advanced degrees and becoming lead researcher at a genetics laboratory.

Jyoti Ghule

Jyoti Ghule, from India, came to Methodist University on a full scholarship from the United World College program. She will graduate in 2020 with a major in Sports Management and a minor in Accounting. In future Ghule plans to be a sports director or manager in her homeland and to help improve the sports industry there.

Katlin Harris

A native of Fayetteville, North Carolina, Katlin Harris graduated *summa cum laude* from Methodist in May of 2017, with a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance and a minor in History. Presently, Harris continues her educational endeavors by attending Louisiana State University to obtain a Master of Music in Musicology. This is the third time Harris's performance on the flute has been featured in the *Monarch Review*. Her desire to learn more about the translation of Franz Schubert's compositional style between vocal and instrumental genres inspired her to craft the essay appearing in this volume. The topic of Schubert and his music continues to be a focus of her research.

Amber LeRoy

Amber LeRoy graduated from the University of Mount Olive in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Biology and in May of 2017 from Methodist University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is from Radford, Virginia, but currently resides in Italy with her husband, who is in the military. LeRoy is employed with the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) office and volunteers with the local Red Cross, health clinic, and United Service Organizations (USO) in her free time. Her career goal is to become more involved with women and children's health by furthering her education as a midwife. LeRoy's interest in women and children's health led her to write her paper about supporting and engaging fathers with breastfeeding partners.

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Christopher Miller

Christopher Miller plans to graduate in May of 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Biology. He is a native North Carolinian. During his Methodist University career, Miller served as secretary of the Lector Club, was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society, presented his "War for the Roses" essay during the Honors Program Panel at Methodist's 6th Annual Undergraduate and Research Symposium, and had his "Lessons from the Lorax" essay published in Phi Theta Kappa's 2015 edition of *Nota Bene*. After graduation, Miller plans to continue writing and pursue a career that will allow him to apply his knowledge of, and adoration for, plant life. The essay published in this volume is a product of his experience in Dr. Richard Walsh's course *Myth and Culture*.

Cheri Molter

Cheri Molter graduated *summa cum laude* from Methodist University in May 2017 with a B.A. in English, History, and Writing. She was awarded the Lucius Stacy Weaver Award for overall excellence and recognized with membership in several honor societies. In addition to her position as the student editor of both the 2016 and 2017 *Tapestry*, MU's journal of creative writing, Molter was the senior student editor of the *Monarch Review* in the academic year 2016-2017. Her writing has appeared in both the *Monarch Review* and *Tapestry*, and she has had a scholarly research paper published in *Aletheia: The Alpha Chi Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship* and poetry in the 2016 and 2017 editions of *Kakalak*. Recently, Molter landed a position with the fledgling North Carolina Civil War History Center, soon to break ground in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where she is tracing local descendants of African-American men from Cumberland County who helped form a Union regiment in the latter months of the Civil War. Molter is happily married, with one son and two daughters, and plans to pursue a Master of Library Science at East Carolina University.

Pooja Nikalje

An international student from Pune, India, Pooja Nikalje was fortunate to complete her high school education abroad, with two years at the international United World College of the Adriatic in Italy. While studying there, Nikalje won a full scholarship to study at Methodist University. Now a junior, she pursues a double major in Business Administration and Marketing. Being a woman and coming from a male-dominated country, she has found her journey challenging but feels the challenges have made her a strong independent woman.

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Tracey Raupp

Tracey Raupp double-majored in Business Administration and Management while also obtaining a double minor in Marketing and Organizational Communication & Leadership, and an Associate's degree in Leadership & Management. She graduated from Methodist University in December 2016. She was included on the Dean's list and was the MU Leadership Fellows Program Distinguished Graduate, and she was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Society), Chi Delta Chi (Veterans Honor Society), NSLS (National Society of Leadership & Success) and the North Carolina E.A. Morris Leadership Fellowship (Class of 2017). With a diverse range of interests from cosmogony/astronomy to cognitive science, Raupp desires a career in the aerospace industry and plans to eventually start her own company. She is in the process of writing two books and compiling two books of photography for future publication. Raupp's photographic work has been published in every volume of the *Monarch Review* since its inception in 2013-2014. *Immeasurable Gold* is her first photo to be featured on the cover of the journal.

Stacey Marie Summers

Stacy Marie Summers's life changed last year, her second year at Methodist University: Skills suddenly began to blossom, her confidence rose, and she leaped into a prismatic world and a terrifying and exhilarating new life. Before that jump, Summers had entered MU in 2015 as a Graphic Design major. Despite the fantastic Graphic Design program offered at Methodist, she quickly fell in love with studio art, and it wasn't long before she changed her major to studio art, with a concentration in painting. She found the perfect complement to this major in creative writing, which became her minor. Both have significantly skewed her perception of what life is supposed to be. As her goals became more grand, she realized she needed to go a place that offered a better art market and moved back to Atlanta, a place where she had a "tribe" and major support. Now Stacy works daily in her studio creating art and struggling to become established as an artist. In Atlanta, where she is known simply as Stacey Marie, she has art work displayed at Relapse Theater, a popular comedy club in the downtown area, as well as at the Highlander in midtown, and has requests to hang work elsewhere.

Vrushali Thombare

Coming from a small village in India, Vrushali Thombare completed the high-school program (through 10th grade) at one of the few schools near her home. She then obtained a scholarship to study at the United World College—Dilijan in Armenia, completed two years of study there, and applied to several colleges in the United States. She chose Methodist University because of the high-quality education available at Methodist. Thombare is currently double majoring in English and Political Science. She plans to develop a career as an English teacher back in India.

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Dipali Tikone

Born in a small town in the Pune district of Maharashtra, India, Dipali Tikone was by parents who devoted their lives to farming. She completed the 10th grade in the only school in her town. Then her life took an unexpected turn with the opportunity to study abroad as one of only four people in her region selected in 2012 to attend United World College. Tikone completed her college prep courses at the UWC of Southern Africa in Swaziland and entered Methodist University in the fall of 2015. Currently a junior, she is pursuing a double major in Business Administration and Marketing.

Gabrielle Wentling

Gabrielle Wentling, from Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, graduated *cum laude* in May of 2017 from Methodist University, where she studied Kinesiology with a concentration in Chemistry. While attending MU, she was a member of Sigma Alpha Pi, the president of Omicron Delta Kappa, and a U.S.A South Scholar Athlete during the Spring of 2013, 2014, and 2015. Wentling plans to attend medical school to become a physician and hopes to have her own practice in the United States and abroad. Her purpose in researching the drug Metformin was to gain a greater comprehension of both the pharmacological industry and the insulin-resistant aspect of the diabetic disease process.

Christopher West

Originally from Queens, New York, Christopher West graduated from Methodist University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with concentration in Biochemistry. West is recipient of the Clark Memorial Science Service Award. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry at Purdue University, and some of his current research projects focus on the characterization and identification of secondary organic aerosols via Ion-mobility Mass Spectrometry. West hopes to work in a national laboratory in the U.S. with the Department of Defense, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, or Environmental Protection Agency. In researching his paper on gingerol, he advanced his project to develop and optimize a means of synthesizing a useful form of the therapeutic component of ginger; the use of computational chemistry methods, as described in the paper, will help researchers optimize the molecules of interest in the gas phase of the synthesis process.