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Letter from the Editor

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Montview*, Liberty University's Journal of Undergraduate Research.

The College of Arts & Sciences, the School of Health Sciences, and the Jerry Falwell Library sponsor the annual symposium and encourage undergraduates—online and residential—to showcase their posters, papers, and creative projects. Last year's was on April 11, when 75 undergraduates across the curriculum presented their research in the Jerry Falwell Library. The following students received first place awards: Forrest Ansell, Grant Barkley, and Caroline Conklin for "Spiritual Attitudes and Values in Young Children"; Amanda Hazy for "Gene Expression and Alzheimer's Disease: Development and Diagnosis"; Kerry DiGiacomo for "'To Teach and Delight': The Literary Significance of John Calvin's 'Institutes of the Christian Religion'"; and Grant McClure and Suzanne Allen for "Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry Analysis of Algae: The Fuel of Our Future." Exhibitors were invited to submit their work to *Montview* after which it went through a peer review process and professional editing before being published.

The symposium in 2016 will be held in March and again will welcome publication in *Montview*.

The journal's title refers to the name of Senator Carter Glass' home which was built in 1923. Sitting on a 300-acre dairy farm with prized Jerseys, Montview was the senator's refuge from Washington, D.C. His next door neighbor was Jerry Falwell, Sr.'s grandfather who also had a dairy farm. The Old Time Gospel Hour, which was owned by Dr. Falwell, bought the estate in 1977, and it continues to stand on Liberty's campus today, appropriately, behind the Prayer Chapel.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Montview is significant because Senator Glass is remembered for the Glass-Owen Act (among other political feats) which set up the Federal Reserve banking system. In 1941 he was sworn in as President Pro-Tem of the U.S. Senate, right there on his sun porch of Montview. The senator died in 1946.

In Liberty's convocations, Dr. Falwell frequently said he wanted the Lord to take him while he was busy at work, and that is exactly what the Lord did. At the age of 73, sitting at his desk in Montview, he passed. His office is kept just as it was on that fifteenth day of May in 2007. The lights stay on 24/7 in honor of God's light that showed through his "good and faithful servant." In front of the grounds is the Jerry Falwell Memorial Garden where Liberty's beloved founder was buried.

The name includes the French "Mont" which means "Mountain." From the mansion, as well as from many high places on campus, one can take in the awesome prospect of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which inspires most viewers to think of Psalm 121:

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
 My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.
 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
 The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
 The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth,
 and even for evermore.

Besides looking up, another excellent vantage point is by being on high and looking down. Dr. Falwell, Sr. often told the story of when he would fly over Lynchburg and see Montview and pray that God would let him build a university that would honor Him on those mountains. God gave Him the vision, Dr. Falwell gave Him his faith, and now Liberty is the largest evangelical university in the world.

It is this journal's prayer that undergraduate researchers will look up to the hills for help and also find on Liberty's mountain the resources to create in the way as did the partnership of Dr. Falwell and the Lord. May *Montview* infuse you with the power of faith, a faith that believes that God "is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (Heb. 11:6), a faith that gives vision, a faith that creates, just as the Creator created us all to do, a faith that honors Him.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brenda Ayres
Editor-in-Chief