



## Letter From the Editor, Maria Bakardjieva, PhD.

The second issue of the Motley Undergraduate Journal has burst out of the gates thanks to the collective efforts of a committed crew of authors, student and faculty reviewers, editors, and talented managers. And what an awesome proof of the effectiveness and worthiness of these efforts it is! Its articles directly reflect the experience of a generation immersed in digital communication, routinely juggling devices and apps, navigating new and old media formats at every step and for all practical purposes of their daily life. Yet, an important transformation has occurred. At the hands of The Motley's contributors, these experiences, devices, and apps have been turned into objects of intense scrutiny, a scrutiny informed by the critical wisdom of philosophers and theorists encountered in university classes. This opportune meeting of youthful perceptiveness and time-honoured theoretical perspectives has allowed the Motley authors to pose and answer some essential questions about the media environment in which most of us swim like fish in water without paying much attention to its properties. Well, this new issue is here to shock us out of our stupor.

All in all, the second issue of The Motley comes to show once again that if you are trying to find on campus the bright analysts, the good writers, the inquisitive young minds willing to reach beyond the minimal requirements and engage with the big issues, one sure way to do it is to start an undergraduate journal. If you start it, they will come. They will bring to the table their fledging competence and confidence as researchers, media critics, and active citizens armed with a scholarly lens, willing to lead their communities to a better understanding of the communication media that shape so many of our social relationships and our vision of the world.