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## Editor's Note

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**Editor's Note**

Thank you for reading the *Swarthmore International Relations Journal (SIRJ)*. This publication was founded in 2016, when two members of the class of 2016, Isabel Knight and Andrew Taylor, saw a need for a space for undergraduates to have their work peer edited, reviewed, and published. This second issue is the product of many thoughtful administrative changes in the journal's structure, of new partnerships, and of many innovative articles by our contributors. We have partnered with the Swarthmore College Libraries to publish and archive our works online. We have implemented a blind-review process to ensure quality of our articles, and have turned to faculty, staff, and alumni with experience in academic publishing to hone our processes. I hope that this year we have laid the groundwork for *SIRJ* to become a lasting presence on Swarthmore campus and in the broader scholarly community.

In this issue you will find articles that look toward the future of international relations. One essay synthesizes historical events with the modern, examining the continued importance of Simón Bolívar in 21st century Latin American politics. We include articles focusing on the ever present refugee resettlement crisis in the European Union and on environmental policies in the context of U.S. hegemonic decline. Following articles address modern warfare, expansions in the U.S. drone program under Barack Obama, and artificial intelligence in lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). Our authors have worked hard to refine their arguments and policy recommendations and have produced a diverse and forward-looking issue.

Finally, I want to thank Dr. Katie Price and Professor Ben Berger at the Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility for their patience and continued faith in the 2016-2017 *SIRJ* student team. I also want to thank Nagyon Kim and Sally Wang for their tireless and enthusiastic help in the last stages of the editing and formatting process. I also want to thank Maria Aghazarian, Professor Emily Paddon Rhodes, George Yin, and Lindsay Dolan for their guidance and advice from this issue's earliest stages to these last few weeks before publication. Without your help, this issue would not have been published. I care deeply about this project and your support is truly appreciated.

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