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EDITOR'S NOTE



Elettra Preosti



Melanie Russo

The origins of science journalism can be traced back to the late 19th century when H.G. Wells became the first ever science-journalist, arguing that writers need to translate scientists' jargon. Since then, science journalism has gone through many different eras of journalism from the "Gee Whiz" age to the "Watch-dog" era. Now, in this last century, we find ourselves in a unique age in which not only information but also misinformation is easily spread through the internet. For this reason, it has become more important than ever for science journalists to communicate information accurately and clearly to the public.

With this in mind, in the spring of 1996, a group of eager young students sought to create a platform through which undergraduates at the University of California, Berkeley could publish their scientific research. As a result, the Berkeley Scientific Journal was founded. The journal has since expanded further to include an Interviews department, which talks with leading scientists around the world, a Features department, which produces articles about significant scientific discoveries across the world, and a Blogs department, which was the origin of our online presence. Publishing our journals online has made our versatile scientific writing easily accessible to the world. Since its origin, though, the Berkeley Scientific Journal has been a standard for undergraduate science journals at other universities as writers strive towards the best kind of science journalism.

This semester, as our writers crafted their pieces, they also kept in mind the origins of the science at hand. For example, Features writer Anna Castello discusses current research that shows how psychedelics may benefit mental health while exploring the history of psychedelic legalization. In another piece, Ibrahim Abouelfettouh investigates technologies that unveil our understanding of how the universe itself originated. An interview with Dr. Brandon Collins illustrates how the history of fire management in California has led to our current wildfire crisis. These are to only name a few.

So, for our 25 year anniversary, as we look to the future of the Berkeley Scientific Journal and continue to evolve, we remember the strength of our roots and our part in the origin of accurate, accessible science journalism.

Elettra Preosti
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Melanie Russo
Managing Editor