

A Message from SOGS

Last winter, just after becoming SOGS President Elect, I attended the 2017 Western Research Forum, Mosaic. The Western Research Forum and the Western Journal of Graduate Research showcase the reason why most of us came to Western to pursue graduate studies: our research. Last year's research forum reminded me of why I had made the decision to dedicate my time to serving as President of the Society. Pursuing a graduate degree is a bold choice to make in a world where knowledge is not universally valued, so I take immense pride in the work that graduate students do here at Western. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this volume, and thank you to the Academic Committee for all you have done. I have no doubt that the 2017 Western Journal of Graduate Research will serve as a reminder of why we are all here and why our work is necessary.

Mary Blake Bonn
President, *Society of Graduate Students*