

A word from the editor

The idea of creating the Ursula Hall Academic Journal originated in a dark garage at a house in Anglers Rest where the Ursula Hall leadership team were having their retreat. Ilze and I had both thought about creating a journal for Ursula Hall for the past few years, but now we were in a position to make it a reality. With the help of Lauren, the academic Senior Resident, the editors of the very first edition of the Ursula Hall Academic Journal were born.

The name of the Ursula Hall Academic Journal, *Merici*, was suggested by the Ursula Hall Residents Committee President, Kathy Lee. The journal takes its name from St Angela Merici, an Italian religious educator who founded the Company of St Ursula in Brescia in the year 1535. Her order was dedicated to the education of girls. Merici was canonised on 24 May 1807 by Pope Pius VII. With her connection to the Ursuline nuns who founded Ursula Hall in 1968 and St Merici's focus on furthering the education of young people, it is fitting the Ursula Hall Academic Journal is named in her honour.

The biggest struggle of creating *Merici* was the process of building something from scratch. Figuring out where to start was one of the hardest tasks in the beginning. The advice that I received from Siobhan Tobin, *Cross-sections* Editor, proved to be invaluable and really contributed to the progress in the early stages. The enthusiasm of the editors and copy editors to assist and contribute to the journal is what has made this possible and I am extremely grateful for their help. I would like to thank Ilze for her artwork, which is featured on the front cover of *Merici*, and for helping me immensely throughout this year. I would also like to acknowledge the support and advice that I received from Dave Segal and Rowena Wedd,

without which we would not have a journal. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who submitted their work to *Merici*. The purpose of *Merici* was to showcase the amazing talent and work achieved at Ursula Hall, which I believe has been achieved in the very first edition. To those of you who submitted but are not featured in this edition, I strongly encourage you to submit your work next year and show the world your achievements.

To those of you reading this journal, speaking on behalf of the editorial team, we hope that you enjoy the compiled works of the very best of Ursula Hall.

Henry Poetrodjojo
2015 Merici Editor

This text is taken from *Merici, Volume 1, 2015*, edited by Henry
Poetrodjojo, Ilze Alexander and Lauren Prossor, published 2016 by
ANU eView, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.