

# Letter from the Chair

In the inaugural edition of the IU Journal of Undergraduate Research, the student authors of the natural sciences investigate nature with a focus on biological and environmental phenomena. Multiple research snapshots explore the complexities of host-parasite interactions using different lenses, from evolved resistance by hosts to the relationship between energy allocation and host infection, to hosts' dispersal rates and parasite selection. At the molecular level, another research snapshot studies RNA expression in the development of tomatoes from a bioinformatic perspective. A full-length paper takes an in-depth look at the effects of a complete drawdown on the biogeochemistry of a local freshwater lake. Expressing the full scientific process necessary to successfully conduct the study, the paper provides well-organized methodologies and data to support its findings. Ultimately, the work of these authors encourages us not only to observe but to actively inspect and understand the complex dynamical systems of the world.

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