

Letter from the Editor:

Dear Reader,

The Journal's look has changed greatly from its first plastic covered, spiral-bound volume back in 1998, but the purpose of the Journal has not changed: To promote research among undergraduate students at Indiana University South Bend and to provide them with the opportunity and experience of publication, as well as introducing the publication process to all submitters, referees, and staff. I am proud to present to you the fourth volume of the IUSB Undergraduate Research Journal. It took a few extra months to finish, but I think you will find the wait to be well worth it.

I am also proud to announce that the Undergraduate Research Journal is now an award winning journal! Last year's volume has recently been awarded an Apex Award for "most improved" journal/magazine of 2001. The Apex Awards program recognizes excellence in publications work by professional communicators. The awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence. If you'd like to learn more about them and/or view the list of 2001 winners, visit their website (www.apexawards.com).



I would like to thank everyone who helped in creating the Journal this year. I'd especially like to recognize the following people:

Thank you to all those faculty members who recommended referees and/or encouraged students to submit their research to the Journal. The Journal would not exist without your strong support. Thank you to all the referees for your dedication and time to meticulously review submitted papers. Many compliments were given from the submitters on the thoroughness and amount of thought you have shown. Thank you to all the submitters for your awesome papers and your courage to experience the process of publishing your work, to the copy editors, Heather Dicks, Theresa Drust and Rob Gibbons, for your attention to detail and recommendations on how to make the Journal even better, to Jeff Ganger for the awesome cover, to Dr. Roy Schreiber for your continued support, to Esker Ligion, Debbie Richards and Bob Osthimer for putting up with all my questions, and to the Student Publications Board for setting up the foundation to make this journal possible.

Sincerely,

Christina Lett
Editor