

Letter from the Editors

As interest in undergraduate research at Indiana University South Bend has increased, the need for an interdisciplinary forum in which students can share their work has become evident. It is our intention that the IUSB Undergraduate Research Journal not only serve as such a forum, but that it also provide contributing students, referees, and the editorial staff with an introduction to the academic writing process.

This journal celebrates the diversity of undergraduate research opportunities at Indiana University South Bend and is a reflection of the hard work of many students and faculty members. This year's journal contains student work from ten different disciplines. These papers were written for classes, Student/Mentor Academic Research Teams (SMART) fellowships, and Honors projects. Some of these papers have been presented at conferences or have been otherwise honored as outstanding papers. Versions of other papers will be submitted to professional journals.

This year we have made a few changes that we hope you will like. We have improved the quality of the printing and binding, introduced a much more extensive revision process, and made an effort to standardize citations (using one reference style for natural science papers, and another style for social science and humanities papers). The change of which we are most proud, however, is our use of L^AT_EX to lay out and typeset the journal.

We would like to thank the people who made this journal possible: the student contributors for submitting their papers and patiently revising them, the communicating faculty members for advising the contributors and recommending their papers for publication, the student referees and copy editors for reviewing papers and recommending revisions, and the faculty members who advised and encouraged the editorial staff. We would like to thank the Student Government Association for recognizing the Undergraduate Research Journal as an official IUSB student publication. We are also grateful for the support of the Publications Board and the continued involvement of the SMART Program.

When the gods published their holy books, they wished they had L^AT_EX . . .

Lost in Thought was typeset using L^AT_EX, an extension of T_EX. T_EX was written by Donald E. Knuth in 1984, and has become a standard tool for producing book quality text for scientific and technical works. T_EX is actually a rendering in capitals of the Greek letters $\tau\epsilon\chi$, and so the last letter is not pronounced like an *x*, but instead like the *ch* in Scottish *loch* or German *ach*. You may have noticed that the font face is very different from the typical roman font. Knuth used a lot of magic and a little mathematics to design what he, and many others, consider to be the perfect font.

L^AT_EX includes a set of pre-defined commands which can be modified to suit the user's needs. Most of these commands are contained in a unique journal `class` file which holds the standardizations that we wanted to apply to each paper. Our `class` file is a combination of the ESA (European Space Agency) Publication `style` file and the AMS (American Mathematical Society) book `class` file. For more information about L^AT_EX or our `class` file, please visit our web page.