

From the Chancellor

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to have been invited by the Omega Student Research Club to write this introductory letter to Indiana University South Bend's first undergraduate journal. I am extremely proud of the members of the Club who, on their own time, produced this important work.

I have been privileged to serve as Chancellor of Indiana University South Bend for just under one year. One of the first events I attended upon my arrival on campus was an undergraduate research conference where a number of the founding members of the Omega Student Research Club presented their research. I was exceedingly impressed by the quality as well as the diversity of the papers that were presented. It was a natural evolutionary step for these talented students to move from the conference to publishing our first journal.

From my perspective, the reason our students have been so successful in terms of their research has been the outstanding support they have received from Indiana University South Bend's excellent faculty. Never in all my years in higher education have I seen such a group of prolific scholars give so unselfishly of their time and expertise to undergraduates. As one student recently observed, "at Indiana University South Bend, I can do cutting edge research on DNA with a nationally renowned expert in the morning and then play basketball with him in the afternoon." Clearly, this extremely positive relationship between students and faculty has created a positive attitude toward research on our campus. The production of this journal should definitely serve to further advance the importance of research and scholarship among our undergraduates.

I commend the members of the Omega Student Research Club on a job well done!

Sincerely,



Kenneth Perrin
Chancellor

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 research has become evident. It is our intention that *Anansi's Gourd* serve not only 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 and dedication of many students and faculty. 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 for reviewing papers and recommending revisions, and the faculty members who advised and encouraged the editorial staff. We extend special thanks to the Student/Mentor Academic Research Teams (SMART) program for providing funding. This program funds independent research projects in all disciplines, sponsors the Indiana University South Bend Undergraduate Research Conference, and supports related activities.