

# LETTER *from the* EDITOR

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Dear Reader,

Firstly, I want to thank you- for picking up this journal, for reading these words, and for showing support for I U South Bend undergraduate researchers. Embarking on the URJ adventure has been both challenging and rewarding, but most worthwhile experiences are. I am unbelievably proud of the final product and I hope you enjoy reading some of the most exciting and exceptional research being done at our University.

I feel honored to have had the opportunity to take charge of this project and showcase outstanding research from fellow undergraduate students. The amount of student talent at Indiana University South Bend is awe-inspiring. Although I could only select a small portion of the research essays submitted, I appreciate the efforts of each author who submitted their work.

The toil put forth on this undertaking was more than just my own. The final product would not have been possible without the devotion and assistance from a team of players.

I would not have had the courage to take on the Editor's position had it not been for my Academic Advisor and mentor, Dr. Gail McGuire. Thank you for your endless encouragement, support, and inspiration.

Thank you to the Undergraduate Research Journal Faculty Advisor, Dr. Peter Bushnell, as well as the entire Student Publications Committee for sharing your knowledge and expertise along the way. I want to extend gratitude to former URJ Editors, Nyaradzo Caroline Mantziba and Angie Rice for your invaluable advice and reassurance. Without Angie Klontz, Debbie Richards, Kelly Luna, and Ray Mann at Service Printers Inc., publication of the journal would not have been possible- thank you for all you do to make Editors' visions a reality.

I would like to also convey most generous appreciation to Indiana University South Bend and the Student Government Association for providing funding which allows students to express innovative ideas and showcase their academic achievements in the Undergraduate Research Journal.

Finally, I must offer wholehearted acknowledgements to my incredible editorial team for their dedication, enthusiasm, and persistent efforts. You guys rock! I am eternally grateful for the energy you put forth to reach the goal of publication. It has been a pleasure to work with each and every one of you.

My hope is, by reading the contents of this journal, you will be inspired to do more than you think is possible, absorb as much as you are able, and unremittingly search for the answers you seek.

Sincerest Regards,

*Christine Deutscher*

Editor in Chief