
A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is our first volume of the Undergraduate Journal. It is an approbation of the impressive research performed by summer interns under the guidance of their dedicated mentors. The full-length publications were chosen from a pool of submissions that were reviewed by many of the excellent scientists at our National Laboratories. Most of these students will pursue careers in science, engineering and technology and, hopefully, some of this talent will remain with our labs. We have also included about 125 abstracts that survived the review process. These were submitted from all of our participating National Laboratories.

In the commentary by Dr. Rollie Otto he mentions the value of mentoring in science. Dr. Otto is an excellent example of a person who, because of his mentor's guidance, had an edge in the sometimes-discouraging world of science. They are the ones who understand the educational and personal values of mentorship and carry on as masters of this tradition. In many ways, we students of science and technology, both past and present, are blessed by a system that regards mentorship as a professional responsibility. Those scientists from our labs who volunteered to be mentors and faithfully assumed the responsibility that went with it should be given the greatest applause and respect for carrying out this trust. As a number of mentors have told me, the greatest thing mentors can give to their students is their time. From the high quality of the works we present in this volume, it seems obvious that the mentors spent a great deal of time with their students in the preparation of the papers. For many of the students it was the first time in their lives that someone sat with them for hours and helped them develop their talent for writing.

For most of the students who have published their work in this journal this is their first scientific publication. During most anyone's career as a scientist, his or her first publication is a memorable one. It is the first time that s/he has contributed in a tangible way to the progress of science in its most formal of ways. If maturing scientists never have the opportunities to formally present their research to others, they are like musicians who never get to play their compositions for other ears. As you read on, I hope you enjoy the music.

Peter Faletra, Ph.D.



Editor-In-Chief

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