



Kaleidoscope

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From the Editor's Viewpoint

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During my graduate training in Neuroscience, I was told by one of my mentors, “You can do the greatest research in the world, but it’s of little value unless you can successfully convey to others what you have learned.” To this end, as well as to showcase the remarkable achievements of our undergraduate students, we bring you, *Kaleidoscope*.

To “convey the message” well - with intrigue not lost in precision, with brevity while not sacrificing clarity, and with enthusiasm while remaining professional - is no small task. For most, this takes many years to develop. In the pages that follow, our students demonstrate their ability to convey the beauty and value of their research projects and to demonstrate the diversity of endeavors that exist at the undergraduate level at University of Kentucky. *Kaleidoscope* provides a venue for our students to 1) tell you what they’ve discovered, 2) practice the important skills necessary for successful communication, and 3) connect with a community locally, nationally, and even internationally to broaden and enhance their knowledge base.

Over the past 10 years, since *Kaleidoscope* was first conceived by Drs. Robert Tannenbaum and Phil Kraemer, the journal has been a treasure trove of works by UK students across all disciplines on campus. It has served to showcase and educate, amaze and emote, clarify and intrigue. This depth and breadth of scholarly works is an indication of what is going right for undergraduate education at UK.

To increase the number of students taking advantage of research opportunities during their undergraduate education, as well as the number and variety of opportunities, all in financially trying times, is our challenge for the future. As the new Director for Undergraduate Research at UK, I have a number of goals before me, namely, to:

1. Increase awareness at UK and beyond about the abundant talent base represented by our undergraduates and convince faculty to take on the rewarding role of undergraduate student mentorship;
2. Increase funding for local, national, and international undergraduate research opportunities;
3. Improve our infrastructure to efficiently support undergraduate research, from administrative methods (improving our student and faculty database; streamlining the initiation and maintenance of mentor-protégé pairings), to improved communication at all levels, and development of new research programs across campus; and
4. Increase research opportunities for undergraduate students in disciplines whose undergraduates have not routinely been involved in independent research projects.

A project of this magnitude cannot happen without the hard work and dedication of many individuals. Enormous recognition goes to the Associate Editor of *Kaleidoscope*, Evie Russell, and Administrative Assistant, Kathy Logsdon, who have done the yeoman’s share of the communication, assembly, and hands-on organization for this issue. We are grateful for the talents of our digital wizards, Vaughan Fielder and Zach Hiler. Finally, we thank our anonymous reviewers who help to maintain the quality expected of a refereed journal such as this. My wish is that, after reading the stories within, if you are an undergraduate student, you are encouraged to begin your own journey into research, and if you are a faculty member, you will be stimulated to work with an undergraduate protégé.

Happy researching!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Snow". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Diane M. Snow, PhD
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